



November 16, 2017

Noemi Emeric-Ford
 Region 9 Brownfields Coordinator
 75 Hawthorne Street, SFD6-1
 San Francisco, CA 94105

Dear Ms. Emeric-Ford,

Sierra Institute for Community and Environment is pleased to submit its application for a EPA Brownfields Cleanup Grant for a hazardous substance contaminated site. The funding requested is \$200,000 to perform site cleanup activities on a 2-3 acre West Central Area, home to the old sawmill kilns, of a 28-acre property in Crescent Mills, Plumas County, California. Two other grant requests have been submitted to EPA to conduct cleanup activities for the Northern Area (2-3 acres), and Old Mill Roads and Boiler Area, home to the old sawmill kilns, (2-3 acres) within the property but this grant application is focused on the West Central Area.

Plumas County and other rural forested communities of California face challenges from poor socioeconomic conditions following the decline of the timber industry, which was the primary economic driver in Plumas County. Its decline hit the communities of Plumas County hard, and left an abundance of abandoned industrial sites in the area. Plumas County's unemployment rate in 2015 was estimated to be 15.2%, significantly higher than the state-wide average of 5.3%. In addition to poor socioeconomic conditions, Plumas County is facing increased threat of catastrophic wildfire and widespread tree mortality triggered by overstocked, unhealthy forests and prolonged drought. The Moonlight Fire of 2007 and the Chips Fire of 2012 burned 64,997 and 75,331 acres, respectively, of forest land at mostly high severity. These fires, among other large-scale fires in Plumas County over the years, have destroyed the ecological integrity of the landscape and at the time threatened the wellbeing of local communities.

As a response, the Sierra Institute has worked to redevelop an old mill site into a wood utilization campus for the past several years in Crescent Mills. The property was formerly home to a sawmill operated by Louisiana Pacific until the late 1980s, and has remained vacant since. Results from site assessments conducted date have indicated that several contaminants remain from prior operations on site. These contaminants and the process for characterizing and remediating them from the site have hindered redevelopment and thus economic development in the region. An EPA Brownfields Cleanup Grant will allow for Sierra Institute to build upon assessment work performed in an EPA Brownfields Assessment and implement a cleanup remedy, paving the way for long-awaited business development on this site.

Redevelopment of this site offers significant economic development potential for Plumas County, and also an opportunity to spur forest restoration throughout the northern Sierra Nevada. At full build-out, the campus will generate between 15-30 wood products industry jobs for an impoverished rural community in need of economic revitalization.

Project info can be found below:

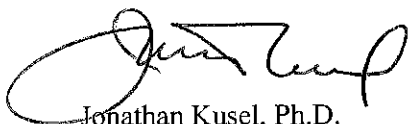
a. Applicant Identification:

Sierra Institute for Community and Environment
4438 Main Street
Taylorsville, CA 95983

- b. Funding Requested:
 - i. Cleanup—Single Site Cleanup
 - ii. \$200,000 requested
 - iii. Hazardous Substances
- c. Location: Crescent Mills, Plumas County, California
- d. Property Information:
 - Crescent Mills Former LP Mill Site
 - Multiple Addresses: 15690 Highway 89 / 15508 Highway 89 / 15700 Main Street
 - Crescent Mills, CA 95934
- e. Contacts:
 - i. Project Director
Camille Swezy
Sierra Institute for Community and Environment
cswezy@sierrainstitute.us
(530) 284-1022
PO Box 11
Taylorsville, CA 95983
 - ii. Chief Executive/Highest Ranking Elected Official:
Jonathan Kusel, Executive Director
Sierra Institute for Community and Environment
jkusel@sierrainstitute.us
(530) 284-1022
PO Box 11
Taylorsville, CA 95983
- f. Population (2015 American Community Survey estimates)
 - Indian Valley greater community, target area (Crescent Mills, Greenville, Taylorsville): 2,601
 - Plumas County: 18,966
- g. Other Factors checklist—attached.
- h. Letter from State Authority—attached.

Thank you for your consideration of the Sierra Institute's Brownfields Cleanup Grant proposal and the Crescent Mills site redevelopment effort.

Sincerely,



Jonathan Kusel, Ph.D.
Executive Director, Sierra Institute for Community and Environment

Appendix 3 Cleanup Other Factors Checklist

Name of Applicant: Sierra Institute for Community and Environment

Please identify (with an **x**) which, if any of the below items apply to your community or your project as described in your proposal. To be considered for an Other Factor, you must include the page number where each applicable factor is discussed in your proposal. EPA will verify these disclosures prior to selection and may consider this information during the selection process. If this information is not clearly discussed in your narrative proposal or in any other attachments, it will not be considered during the selection process.

Other Factor	Page #
<i>None of the Other Factors are applicable.</i>	
Community population is 10,000 or less.	Narrative page 1
The jurisdiction is located within, or includes, a county experiencing “persistent poverty” where 20% or more of its population has lived in poverty over the past 30 years, as measured by the 1990 and 2000 decennial censuses and the most recent Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates.	
Applicant is, or will assist, a federally recognized Indian tribe or United States territory.	
Target brownfield sites are impacted by mine-scarred land.	
Applicant demonstrates firm leveraging commitments for facilitating brownfield project completion, by identifying in the proposal the amounts and contributors of resources and including documentation that ties directly to the project.	narrative, page 9, see attachments for letters
Applicant is a recipient of an EPA Brownfields Area-Wide Planning grant.	



Matthew Rodriguez
Secretary for
Environmental Protection



Department of Toxic Substances Control

Barbara A. Lee, Director
8800 Cal Center Drive
Sacramento, California 95826-3200



Edmund G. Brown Jr.
Governor

November 9, 2017

Ms. Noemi Emeric-Ford
US EPA Region 9 Brownfields Program
Southern California Field Office
600 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 1460
Los Angeles, California 90017

STATE OF CALIFORNIA LETTER OF ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FOR BROWNFIELDS GRANT APPLICATIONS FOR THE SIERRA INSTITUTE

Dear Ms. Emeric-Ford:

The Department of Toxics Substances Control (DTSC) of the California Environmental Protection Agency (Cal/EPA) acknowledges and supports the Sierra Institute's application for a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) Site-Specific Cleanup Grant for the Crescent Mills, former LP Mill, Property. The site operated as a Louisiana Pacific Lumber Mill until the late 1980s and has remained vacant. The DTSC is one of the lead regulatory Agencies with responsibility for overseeing the investigation and remediation of hazardous substances release sites in California. Through various initiatives, DTSC works cooperatively with state and local agencies, private entities and communities to facilitate brownfield reuse and achieve cost-effective remediation solutions, while safeguarding public health and the environment. DTSC has worked cooperatively with numerous stakeholders throughout California assisting with redevelopment and reuse plans for hazardous substances and petroleum release sites in our State.

DTSC fully supports Sierra Institute's efforts to apply for and obtain a Site-Specific Cleanup Grant to address contamination at the Crescent Mills Property in the amount of \$200,000. Utilizing the U.S. EPA grant, Sierra Institute would be able to implement a cleanup remedy that has been developed as part of an existing EPA Brownfields Assessment grant for this site. Once completed, the Crescent Mills site will be redeveloped into a wood utilization campus. Businesses on site will use a variety of technologies to generate value added wood products out of low value biomass material coming from forest health and fire risk reduction projects on surrounding forested land in Plumas County.

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The Sierra Institute is the recipient of a Targeted Site Investigation (TSI) grant for \$150,000 and a U.S. EPA Brownfield Assessment grants for \$200,000 in 2017 and is currently working with DTSC under a TSI Agreement. DTSC fully supports the Sierra Institute's application for the U.S. EPA Cleanup Grant.

This grant will allow the Sierra Institute to continue to work with State Agencies in a productive manner that protects the environment, improves lives of the citizens of the area, and remediates the Crescent Mills Property. We appreciate the opportunity to support local agency programs because they play a critical role in California's effort to protect the environment and public health.

If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Leona Winner at (916) 255-6679, or by email at Leona.Winner@dtsc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Wm P. Ryan".

William P. Ryan, P.E.
Supervising Hazardous Substances Engineer II
San Joaquin Branch – Sacramento Office
Brownfields and Environmental Restoration Program

cc: Ms. Leona Winner (via email)
Senior Environmental Scientist
San Joaquin Branch – Sacramento Office
Brownfields and Environmental Restoration Program
Department of Toxic Substances Control
8800 Cal Center Drive
Sacramento, California 95826

US EPA Cleanup Grant Narrative

1. **Community Need**—General Overview:

a. **Target Area and Brownfields**

i. **Community and Target Area Descriptions:**

Plumas County lies at the intersection of the northern Sierra Nevada and southern Cascade mountain ranges with clean air and water, beautiful natural surroundings and geologic wonders. It has a long, rich history of Native American Maidu Tribal inhabitation, along with multi-generational families including ranchers, loggers, and residents who moved from urban areas to enjoy more peaceful, mountain settings to raise their families. With over a million acres of forestland, two-thirds of which is federally-owned, this area forms the headwaters of the Feather River Watershed, a critical water source for 25 million Californians.

Historically, the primary economic drivers of Indian Valley and the rest of Plumas County have been mining, logging, and federal jobs but the decline of resource extraction activities and closure of a Forest Service district ranger station has left Indian Valley without a significant industry to provide the bulk of jobs. What remains are few job opportunities and a struggling local economy. Given the prominent history of wood products manufacturing in Plumas County, there are several abandoned industrial sites formerly home to sawmill operations throughout the area, which have remained vacant since sawmills closed over 25 years ago. Communities typically do not see investment coming into these rural and remote areas, therefore no major economic development has occurred since the timber industry departed, resulting in a multitude of brownfield sites remaining vacant and contaminated.

The targeted area for this project is the small ranching community of Indian Valley, home to approximately 2,500 people. The populated area includes the census designated places of Greenville, Crescent Mills, and Taylorsville. The proposed location for this site is a 28-acre property that was home to a Louisiana Pacific sawmill operation until the mid-1980s. The site lies in the Crescent Mills, within the greater Indian Valley community. The site is registered in the California Department of Toxic Substance Control's (DTSC) EnviroStor database as "Louisiana Pacific Corp-Crescent Mills," but is referred to as the "Crescent Mills site" in this application.

ii. **Demographic Information and Indicators of Need:**

Table 1: Selected Demographic Info for Target Area, Plumas County, California, and U.S.	Greenville CDP (primary CDP in target area)	Plumas County	California	National
Population:	997	18,966	38,421,464	316,515,021
Unemployment:	12.2%	15.2%	5.3%	4.6%
Poverty Rate:	17.6%	14.5%	16.3%	15.5%
Hispanic Percent of Population:	7.7%	8.3%	38.4%	17.1%
Percent Racial Minority:	6.9%	6.6%	38.2%	26.4%
Median Household Income:	\$26,481	\$47,333	\$61,818	\$53,889
Percent American Indian:	9.1%	5.1%	0.7%	0.8%
Free & Reduced Price Meals eligibility (2014-15) ¹ :	60%	49.4%	58.6%	--

Source: 2015 American Community Survey Estimates

Roughly the size of Delaware, Plumas County is sparsely populated and has been designated as one of the fifteen "frontier counties" of California due to its small population and geographic isolation. The majority of the county's 18,966 residents live in or near the four small communities of: Portola, the county's only

¹ <http://www.ed-data.org/school/Plumas/Plumas-Unified>

incorporated city; Quincy, the county seat; Greenville, the largest community in Indian Valley; and Chester. Like other rural counties in California and the U.S., Plumas County struggled economically even before the Great Recession of 2008, and mirrors the stagnant timber industry of the Pacific Northwest. The county's timber-based economy is seasonal, and forest workers are traditionally laid off in winter. Winter months typically have the highest rates of unemployment during the year—commonly above 20%. The 2015 unemployment rate of 15.2% for Plumas County is greater than the rates for most counties in the state, and considerably higher than California and the United States, at 5.3% and 4.6%, respectively. With the erosion of jobs, Plumas County's population has been decreasing over the past decade. The housing vacancy rate has increased from 33% in 2000 to 47.6% in 2015 and student population has declined by one-third, based on Plumas Unified School District enrollment numbers.

Greenville, the largest census designated place in Indian Valley, at 997 people, is one of the most impoverished communities in the county. The 2015 American Community Survey estimates a poverty rate of 17.6% (compared to 14.5% for Plumas County and 16.4% for California). Eligibility among children K-12 for Free or Reduced Price Meals is 60% for the 2014-2015 school year. Median household income in Greenville in 2015 is \$26,481, which is 55% of the county-wide median of \$47,333 and 42% of statewide median of \$61,818. **Table 1** compares Greenville CDP demographics, with Plumas County, California, and U.S. totals.

iii. Description of the Brownfields and Their Impacts

The project site lies in the community of Crescent Mills, a small community of Indian Valley within 4 miles from Greenville, and was formerly home to a Louisiana Pacific sawmill operation until the mid-1980s. Currently there are no structures on site, but there are various remnants from prior operations. The Crescent Mills site runs parallel between Indian Creek, a tributary of the North Fork of the Feather River, and Highway 89 through the Crescent Mills. A BNSF rail line also runs between the Crescent Mills site and Highway 89. The site lies directly adjacent to the populated area of Crescent Mills, with some houses abutting the railroad line that separates them from the site. The Mount Huff Golf Course is on the southern edge, and mostly abandoned storage facilities are on the northern edge as part of a separate parcel. The eastern edge is bordered by a site, at which state transportation department (Caltrans) is working to restore wetland habitat. The focus of this cleanup grant is the 3 acre West Central Area where the sawmill kilns operated when the Louisiana Pacific mill was in business.

Sierra Institute to date has engaged consultants to complete Phase I and Phase II assessments, a Targeted Site Investigation (TSI, a technical assistance provided by the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC)), and follow up site characterization work for the site. These assessments found that mill practices such as spreading oil and incinerator ash on the roadways, and treating wood products with a chemical treatment resulted in contamination on the site with arsenic and total petroleum hydrocarbons (TPH). Historical searches performed for the Phase I assessment indicated that some tanks were removed and wells installed for inspection and monitoring involving the California State Water Resources Control Board, but no continued oversight was deemed necessary.

The TSI completed in April 2017 identified that arsenic in soil appears to be the most widespread. Groundwater tests indicate that the arsenic in the soil has not resulted in groundwater impacts at the site. The source of arsenic that is present throughout the Crescent Mills site may be related to lumber mill operations, such as the historic practice of spreading incinerator ash for dust suppression, but could also have been present in the import fill material brought to the site to raise the surface grade. The import fill may have been derived from off-site mining operations, as the greater Crescent Mills area has several

reported gold mines and arsenic is commonly found to be associated with gold deposits. Regardless of source, arsenic concentrations reports in shallow soil exceed the established background concentration across several areas of the site.

A portion of the site lies in a 100-year flood plain directly adjacent to Indian Creek, a tributary of the North Fork of the Feather River, which drains to Lake Oroville. With flooding events, the majority of the site has been flooded, with some parts flooded numerous times, suggesting contaminated soil has washed into the creek and the Feather River since mill operations ceased in the 1980s and will continue to do so without remediation. The Feather River Watershed and Lake Oroville are part of the California's State Water Project, delivering water to over two thirds of California's population and on average provides 3.2 million acre-feet of water per year to downstream urban, industrial, and agricultural users in California. Overall brownfield sites in Plumas County lie within the critical Upper Feather River Watershed, which underscores the importance of cleaning up contamination so toxins do not wash downstream to urban users.

Given contaminants found, the West Central Area of the property requires cleanup before redevelopment can begin.

b. Welfare, Environmental Public Health Impacts—

- i. Welfare Issues in Target Area: Plumas County's small population and geographic isolation results in the communities lacking many services. Public transportation options are very limited. While there are three district hospitals in the county, they lack most specialized services thus requiring residents to drive two hours away to the cities of Reno or Chico, and sometimes 3 hours to Sacramento, for adequate health care services. Broadband internet exists but is poor quality and there is only one company that offers internet service to the area. According to USDA, the Indian Valley community (including Greenville, Crescent Mills, and Taylorsville) classifies as a low-income tract and a Food Desert, with relatively high number of households (10.5%) without vehicles that are more than one-half mile from a supermarket.

Poor air quality, a result of open pile burning and wildfires, affects human health and can also lead to regulatory burdens that themselves constrain economic development. Recently, the town of Portola in eastern Plumas County was recently designated as a "non-attainment" area by the Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District due to fine particle emissions. Nonattainment can result in fines and suspension of transportation infrastructure upgrades, including some that can contribute to non-attainment.

- ii. Cumulative Environmental Issues: Environmental issues faced by Plumas County residents in the target area can be primarily attributed to declining forest and watershed health as a result of prolonged drought and a changing climate. The structure of California's forests has been altered as a result of a century of fire suppression and forest management practices that have led to unnaturally dense forests packed with many small diameter trees. This forest structure combined with severely dry forest conditions due to the recent drought in California has led to an increased risk of catastrophic wildfire. Ten years ago, the Moonlight Fire burned 65,000 acres adjacent to Indian Valley, over 60 percent burned at high severity. The 2012 Chips Fire, ten miles north and west of Indian Valley scorched 75,000 acres and filled the Lake Almanor basin with smoke, devastating the tourist economy for that year. Conditions such as these will soon be exacerbated as where once low-intensity ground fires were common, small trees now serve as ladder fuels allowing fire to climb into the forest canopy resulting in devastating crown fires. Furthermore, climate models suggest that California's mountain areas will experience less snowfall in the coming years, with precipitation coming in fewer, stronger storms. Poor forest and watershed health as a result of climate change, drought, and overstocked forests has also led to massive tree die-off across forested parts of

California. The U.S. Forest Service estimates that 102 million trees in California have died since 2010 as a result of prolonged drought and altered forest conditions. California Governor Brown issued an Emergency Proclamation in October 2015 to address these conditions. With an increased threat of wildfire due to unnatural forest conditions, hazardous fuels thinning and forest restoration projects are needed throughout the area.

However, the lack of a local facility that can process low-value biomass from fuels reduction projects on both private and federal land reduces opportunity and the incentive to implement such projects at a large scale. This sometimes precludes essential fire safe management around homes. Open pile burning is a common method for disposal of material generated from fuels reduction projects in the county, but this creates harmful emission of fine particulate matter and results in poor air quality that affects the populated valleys of Plumas County. Open pile burning that is poorly managed can also lead to catastrophic forest fires that emit massive harmful emissions, including black carbon.²

The proposed biomass-fired combined heat and power facility to be developed at the Crescent Mills site will provide a local outlet for woody biomass to be burned in a controlled environment, thus reducing the number of open pile burns and improving air quality and producing renewable power.

Table 2 compares emissions from burning biomass in an open pile versus in a confined boiler. With the exception of nitrous oxides, burning biomass in a boiler reduced emissions by more than 93%.

Pollutant	Open Pile Burning (lbs/ton)	Biomass Boiler Burning (lbs/ton)	Reduction from boiler burning (%)
Sulfur Oxides	1,630.62	38.34	97.6
Nitrogen Oxides	4,412.25	671.43	84.8
Carbon Monoxide	67,431.03	383.67	99.4
Particulates	4,220.43	249.36	94.1
Hydrocarbons	6,042.87	0.00	100.0
Total	79,325.17	1,342.80	98.4

(adapted Springsteen et al.³)

As this site lies within a flood plain adjacent to Indian Creek, a tributary to the North Fork of the Feather River, contaminated soils have been carried downstream into both popular recreational areas and fish habitat, including Indian Creek, the Feather River and the downstream reservoirs, including Lake Oroville.

iii. Cumulative Public Health Impacts:

Catastrophic wildfires are a common occurrence every year for rural forested communities in California, and Plumas County is no exception. Wildfires release harmful emissions, including fine particulate matter. This was evident more recently by the Minerva Fire of 2017 near Quincy⁴, of which the Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District issued air quality advisories for days at a time as smoke from the wildfire choked the community of Quincy, and spread to communities of Indian Valley.

Open pile burning (a product of no outlets to take forest biomass, something the Sierra Institute is aiming to address through the proposed reuse of the Crescent mills site) also results in release of harmful emissions such as black carbon and more (see Table 2). Harmful emissions from wildfires and open pile burning, and subsequent poor air quality directly affect sensitive populations in Plumas County where poverty rates are high and access to proper health care services is limited. Respiratory issues can be common in communities suffering from poor air quality.

² The California Air Resources Board identifies black carbon as a Short-Lived Climate Pollutant: See: April 2016. Proposed Short-Lived Climate Pollutant Reduction Strategy. California Air Resources Board.

³ Springsteen, B., T. Christofk, S. Eubanks, T. Mason, C. Clavin, and B. Storey. 2011. "Emission Reductions from Woody Biomass Waste for Energy as an Alternative to Open Burning," *Journal of Air & Waste Management Association* 61: 63-68.

⁴ <http://www.plumasnews.com/air-quality-health-advisory-issued/>

c. Financial Need

- i. Economic Conditions: Plumas County has no economic development agency, and it is difficult to raise capital for developing business opportunities and attract experienced entrepreneurship to promote business development. The county's small population has little capacity to perform this work, and remote rural location results in weak linkages to markets that can help to raise the funds necessary to assess and clean up the site.

Beginning in the late 1980s and mid 1990s, a series of events led to a decline in the timber industry in California and throughout the American West. Increased environmental legislation made harvesting timber on public lands more difficult, a change in building materials decreased the demand for dimensional lumber, coupled with the decline in timber production in Plumas County from over 350 million board feet in the 1980s to 177 million board feet (MMbf) by 1999, and only 89 MMbf in 2011. Mill closures led to thousands of lost jobs throughout Northern California, and population decreased as families left in search of employment elsewhere.

Until recently, the impacts of the declining timber industry were softened by a coinciding increase in tourism and construction of second homes. Plumas County retained some timber industry due to the presence of two mills, but the local economy shifted from being resource-based to one dependent on construction and service industry jobs. The Great Recession worsened economic condition in Plumas County, and unemployment reached a high point of 16.8% in 2010, with some communities experiencing rates over 20%.

Beyond the impoverished nature of Plumas County, this funding is needed because the applicant, Sierra Institute for Community and Environment is a non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization and therefore does not have the reserves needed to adequately prepare the site for redevelopment. The only way work has been completed on site to date is because the Sierra Institute has written proposals to secure assessment support. Without this work, this site will remain vacant, unused, and not assessed/characterized.

This property has not been used since Louisiana Pacific left in the mid-1980s nor was the previous owner able to sell the property before Sierra Institute purchased it because there is no demand for a former mill site with environmental liabilities. This underscores the importance of this work: without additional support and site characterization, this property will likely sit for another several decades because of the time and money needed for site remediation.

- ii. Economic Effects of Brownfields: Plumas County has a number of old mill sites, many of which lie vacant. The decline of the timber industry and improvement of efficiencies mill operations led to the closure of many older, smaller mills in Indian Valley and throughout Plumas County. Indian Valley used to be home to a dozen mills; none remain today.

There is a fear associated with development of old mill sites because standard practices at the time—use of ash and oils on roads and preservatives on wood, etc.—led to brownfields sites today. There is limited capital and wherewithal to develop businesses, and no appetite nor resources to tackle brownfields.

Abandoned industrial sites in Indian Valley are an eyesore that also limit other businesses returning to an otherwise beautiful mountain valley. Housing prices in Indian Valley are the lowest in Plumas County. Part of this is due to poor housing stock, but part also has to do with the poor local economy. The U.S. Forest

Service closed a district ranger office in Greenville in a consolidation effort that led to the departure of many of the higher paying professional government jobs. The school district and the supermarket are two of the largest employers. The school district has threatened closure of the local high school for the last six years, which now has 74 students.

2. Project Description and Feasibility of Success:

a. Project Description, Timing, and Implementation

i. Existing Conditions

As a response to socioeconomic and environmental challenges, the Sierra Institute for Community and Environment launched efforts to increase utilization of small diameter trees to restore ecological health and through their utilization create a restoration economy that will improve socioeconomic conditions in Plumas County. The Sierra Institute has worked for almost three years to redevelop an old industrial site into an integrative wood utilization campus in the community of Crescent Mills, California. The planned campus includes a variety of businesses and technologies that will create value-added wood products out of low-value biomass material obtained from surrounding forests. Proposed businesses include a community-scale biomass-powered combined heat and power facility (supported by the State of California), a cross-laminated timber production facility, a wood chip processing business that will generate refined wood chips to be used as fuel for a network of biomass heating systems replacing fossil fuel use at public institutions throughout the county, a packaged firewood business, a greenhouse operation, and other wood products businesses. The project team is working with business owners to turn initial commitments into operating businesses.

The Crescent Mills site is ideal for a wood utilization campus due to its highway and rail access, “heavy industry” land use zoning, central location in Plumas County, and proximity to a Pacific Gas & Electric substation that offers opportunity for connecting a bioenergy facility to the electrical grid. However, historical sawmill practices, such as spreading used oil and incinerator ash on the roadways and use of anti-staining chemical treatments on finished lumber products, have left a legacy of chemicals and compounds that persist in the soil. Several site assessments have been conducted to date, including a Phase I, Phase II, an Analysis of Brownfield Cleanup Alternatives, and a Targeted Site Investigation, which have all sought to characterize the extent of site contamination and inform development of a cleanup plan.

Arsenic in soil is the most widespread contaminant of potential concern, found in several areas throughout the site above background levels. Groundwater sampling has indicated that arsenic in the soil has not resulted in groundwater impacts at the site, as reported in the TSI performed in early 2017. Arsenic concentrations reported in shallow soil exceed the established background concentration in several areas throughout the site, and require remediation for development.

TPH-d (total petroleum hydrocarbons in the diesel range) has also been reported in soil in numerous locations at the site in exceedance of screening levels. TPH-d was reportedly stored at the Site when the sawmill was in operation, and was used to operate the boiler and various other machinery, and may have been spread on former mill roads along with waste oil for dust suppression. TPH levels appear to have decreased over time.

Consultants that performed the TSI (2017) and developed the report recognized that the contaminants in the soil and groundwater have been sufficiently delineated, and recommended that no further investigation is necessary and that the next steps for the site should focus on preparing a cleanup plan to select an appropriate remedial action and therefore facilitate development and the cleanup.

More recent site assessments do not include evaluation or investigation of any adjacent or off-site properties that may or may not be contaminated, which is particularly pertinent as the neighboring properties to the north and east were part of the former Louisiana Pacific lumber mill and therefore had similar use as the site. There is a possibility that the source of impacts observed along the property boundaries may originate off-site.

ii. Proposed Cleanup Plan

Sierra Institute is pursuing a cleanup remedy involving capping with institutional controls. This method will include laying fill in areas with arsenic levels above background levels as a cap and barrier to this contaminated soil. Institutional Controls in the form of land use covenants will be recorded to limit future use of the property to industrial use. This strategy will require ongoing monitoring and maintenance of the cap over time, but is significantly less expensive than an excavate and dispose remedy as it does not involve transportation and disposal of excavated soil to an offsite landfill. A capping method is cost effective and can be instituted relatively quickly. It will allow for timely redevelopment of the property, and effectively ensure the health and safety of future workers on site. Cost effectiveness is a priority for the Sierra Institute as the cleanup will need to be fully grant funded given the limited financial capacity of this community-based non-profit organization in the context of brownfield cleanup.

This remedy will be reflected in an official remedial action plan document, which is currently in development and will be finalized in the next 2-4 months. If awarded, Sierra Institute can begin cleanup and redevelopment immediately after execution of the cooperative agreement.

iii. Alignment with Revitalization Plans

The Plumas County General Plan, which calls for greater utilization of biomass to reduce forest fuel buildup and to increase use of renewable fuels while reducing reliance on fossil fuels. The General Plan also includes the goals: 1) to create and retain jobs, and reinvest wealth through our economy, community, and natural resources; 2) to improve health and well-being of all Plumas County residents; and 3) to promote a future for Plumas County citizens in which land use decisions balance social, economic, and natural resource health (Plumas County Planning Department, Plumas County Draft General Plan).

The proposed reuse for the property is in line with California Governor Brown's October 2015 Emergency Proclamation on tree mortality as it addresses the need for increased forest restoration efforts and also provides an outlet for dead tree material. Once the site can begin accepting forest waste material, it will help reduce the number of pile burns that occur in the woods, therefore improving air quality for Plumas County residents. The proposed reuse is also in line with the recently released "Recommendations to Expand Wood Products Markets in California" report, released by the California Natural Resources Agency and California's SB 859 Wood Products Working Group. The project will use existing road, sewer and power infrastructure on the site.

Sierra Institute has worked to redevelop the Crescent Mills site into an integrated wood products campus for the past five years. This campus will utilize a variety of technologies to generate value-added wood products out of low-value woody material coming out of the forest from restoration and fire risk reduction efforts. Businesses to be developed include a dried and packaged firewood operation, a cross-laminated timber production facility, a community-scale bioenergy facility that will sell electricity to Pacific Gas & Electric pursuant to the Bioenergy Market Adjusting Tariff program, and a wood chip processing business to supply biomass boilers to be installed around the county. This project builds on the forest industry, still a

major employer in Plumas County and the northern Sierra region, and directly addresses the critical need of increasing biomass utilization and enabling forest restoration and hazardous fuels thinning. The project is supported by the Plumas County Board of Supervisors and the its Community Development Commission.

Plumas County is considered within the sphere of influence of the Sierra Economic Development Corporation (SEDCorp). In its 2014-15 Annual Performance Report, SEDCorp identified biomass utilization as one of two “very clear value added region wide development priorities.” In this report SEDCorp called for “the continued exploration of the economic, environmental and triple bottom-line benefits of managing our forest by-product material (BIOMASS)” (page 8).

Sierra Institute intends to prioritize sustainable development practices while redeveloping the Crescent Mills site. The proposed reuse of a wood products campus will support efforts to improve air quality as the businesses will generate a local outlet to forest biomass material, which is otherwise burned in piles in the woods, resulting in harmful emissions. A local outlet for forest biomass will also allow for increased fire risk reduction activities, therefore preventing the risk of catastrophic wildfire, another major air quality concern. The wood products campus at full build-out will generate between 15 and 25 permanent jobs for local residents, therefore helping retain residents of Indian Valley who might otherwise leave due to lack of employment opportunities.

DTSC will not allow business operations or site development without an appropriate remediation strategy. The brownfield assessment and cleanup process was not anticipated when site planning first commenced, and has significantly derailed the timeline for site development. This has prevented timely forest restoration and economic development, challenging business development in an impoverished area desperately in need of industry and jobs. Thus, Sierra Institute is applying for a US EPA Cleanup Grant to advance this cleanup work and allow redevelopment of the Crescent Mills site to proceed.

b. Task Descriptions and Budget Table

i. Task Descriptions:

Task 1: Programmatic Management, Oversight and Reporting

\$12,840 allocated. This task provides funds for Sierra Institute staff oversight and overall project management costs, including communicating with EPA project officer, selecting qualified contractor to perform cleanup implementation, managing project budget, developing progress reports (consistent with EPA reporting requirements and process), developing the final project report, and any other miscellaneous project oversight activities. Personnel: **\$10,610** (Executive Director, loaded rate salary and benefits \$90/hour, 51 hours = \$4,590; Project Manager, \$60/hour, 82 hours = \$4,920; Financial Manager, \$55/hour, 20 hours = \$1,100); Travel: **\$90** To Crescent Mills site from Taylorsville—11 miles round trip @53.5 cents/mile, 15 trips=\$90; Supplies: **\$1,000**—miscellaneous office supplies including printing, postage, phone.

Outputs: Performance reports, final report; Outcomes: an effectively managed grant

Task 2: Community Engagement and Outreach

\$3,525 allocated. Sierra Institute staff will implement a community engagement process in the Indian Valley/Crescent Mills area to ensure residents are aware of the cleanup process, and provide opportunities for public comment and input. The Sierra Institute will also share lessons learned and results with a statewide peer learning network of rural forested communities also striving to redevelop brownfields for biomass utilization campuses, referred to as the Rural Community Development Initiative, led by the Sierra Institute. Personnel funds will be used to support staff time and supply costs needed for enhancing public

awareness of the project (including posters, signs) and for informational meetings (including fact sheets, posters, and other informational documents), and to maintain web-based information. Personnel: \$3,000 (Executive Director, loaded rate salary and benefits \$90/hour, 12 hours = \$1,080; Project Manager, loaded rate salary and benefits \$60/hour, 32 hours = \$1,920; Travel: \$25--Taylorsville to Crescent Mills for public meetings, sharing project updates with community. 11.5 miles round trip @53.5 cents/mile, 4 trips; Supplies: \$500, meeting materials, including printing and expenses associated with informational handouts/signage.

Outputs: presentation and outreach materials; *Outcomes*: increased awareness of site redevelopment

Task 3: Cleanup Implementation

\$183,635 allocated for a cleanup remedy on the West Central Area of the site to be conducted by the selected remediation contractor. The site will be cleaned up in accordance with the Remedial Action Plan document that is currently in progress under an existing US EPA Assessment Grant. *This work will be performed in accordance with applicable oversight agencies.* Cleanup activities will likely include:

- Soil capping in accordance with approved Remedial Action Plan
- Removal Action Cleanup Report—describes cleanup activities and institutional controls.

A 20% **cost share** is included in Task 3 of this grant, totaling \$40,000 from a Sierra Nevada Conservancy grant to the Sierra Institute for initial site improvements related to development of a wood chip processing business. This property development work ties in directly with the process of implementing the proposed remedy as it includes general site prep activities (paving, raising the elevation, etc) making the site ready for business development.

Outputs of this task include soil capping, and a Removal Action Cleanup Report. *Outcomes* include the completion of cleanup of the site's West Central Area.

ii. Budget Table	Task 1:	Task 2:	Task 3:	Total
Personnel	\$10,610	\$3,000		\$13,610
Benefits				
Travel	\$90	\$25		\$115
Supplies	\$1,000	\$500		\$1500
Contractual			\$184,775	\$184,775
Other				
Total	\$11,700	\$3,525	\$184,775	\$200,000
Cost Share			\$40,000	
Total Project	12,830	3,525	\$224,775	\$240,000

c. Ability to Leverage:

Much funding has already been secured from a variety of sources to support not only site assessment efforts but also redevelopment planning. A number of site assessments have been completed to date. Funding has been secured for a human health risk assessment and development of a remedial action plan, which are currently in progress through a Brownfields Assessment Grant. After a cleanup plan is developed, a cleanup remedy needs to be implemented to ensure successful and safe redevelopment of the Crescent Mills site and its wood utilization campus.

Sources of funds leveraged to support site redevelopment include:

Source	Funding Name	Purpose/Products	Amount	Status
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	Brownfields Assessment Grant 2017	For site characterization and cleanup planning of the Crescent Mills site	\$200,000	Secured, in process
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	Targeted Brownfield Assessment 2014	Phase I, Phase II, Analysis of Brownfield Cleanup Alternatives	>\$150,000	Secured, completed
CA Department of Toxic Substance Control	Targeted Site Investigation 2017	Site characterization	\$149,000	Secured, completed
U.S. Forest Service	Wood Innovations	Site engineering and planning for	\$250,000	Secured, in

	Grant 2016	development of a bioenergy facility and wood utilization campus at the Crescent Mills site		process
Sierra Nevada Conservancy	Proposition 84 Grant Program, 2015	Site development and mechanical work for wood chipping business	\$350,000	Secured, in process
USDA Rural Development	Rural Business Development Grant, 2015	To support site buildout of the Crescent Mills site, and provide support to potential business owners, build capacity	\$65,000	Secured, in process
Private donor funds, coordinated by Northern Sierra Partnership	2017	For purchase of the Crescent Mills site	\$191,500	Secured, completed

Anticipated: Anticipated sources of leveraged funding include private investor equity for wood utilization businesses on site.

3. **Community Engagement and Partnerships:**

a. **Engaging the Community**

Community Involvement Plan: The project will implement a community engagement process in the Indian Valley area. Because our community is so small, it can be difficult to effectively reach a large audience. A handful of people will attend public meetings, while others may not have interest in coming to such an event. Beyond public meeting, many rely on the local paper to be informed.

With this in mind, a variety of measures will be pursued to ensure the public is aware of the project, and to provide an opportunity for the public to comment on the project and to ask questions. This will be done regularly throughout the cleanup process, especially to keep the community apprised of when remediation work is occurring in an effort to reduce impacts during this process. Strategies to engage and inform the Indian Valley community will include community meetings, press releases in the local newspaper, social media, updates on the local 91.9 KQNY radio station and the “Common Good” show (which Sierra Institute’s work has been featured on before), flyers, and web-based information. Through a diverse outreach strategy, Sierra Institute will provide consistent updates to the Indian Valley community throughout the duration of the cleanup process and beyond. The Sierra Institute will also keep its county-wide energy planning committee apprised to disseminate information. Led by the Sierra Institute, this group was convened to develop a county-wide renewable energy plan and it led to a focus of increased use of biomass.

The local newspaper, Indian Valley Record, has tracked progress on Crescent Mills redevelopment planning efforts and, more recently, the contamination characterization and cleanup process. The project team will continue to communicate closely with reporters from the Indian Valley Record and its parent newspaper Plumas News so that relevant updates are published in the paper to educate and inform the local community.

Furthermore, the Sierra Institute will continue to engage local community members through holding public forums that give residents an opportunity to express concerns and ask questions. The Sierra Institute will also develop a “brownfields” section of their website that will post regular updates as they occur and also to share lessons learned and other information for other rural forested communities working to redevelop brownfields for wood utilization campuses. Project updates will be shared when relevant with the county Board of Supervisors and other relevant local government personnel.

The Sierra Institute-led peer-learning network of 15 rural forested communities around California working to advance biomass utilization efforts as a means to address declining forest health and socioeconomic

wellbeing, will continue to receive regular reports on this project. This network, referred to as the Rural Community Development Initiative, aims to build capacity of these communities so they are able to achieve success with biomass utilization projects and many involving brownfield assessment and redevelopment. Results and lessons learned will continue to be shared by the Sierra Institute through this network so communities are aware of the processes and steps that need to be taken in California for assessing, cleaning up, and removing liabilities associated with brownfields.

Sierra Institute will work to ensure the community of Crescent Mills is minimally impacted from the remediation work, including implementing measures for dust suppression and traffic safety.

b. Partnerships with Government Agencies

- i. Local/State/Tribal Environmental Authority: The California Department of Toxic Substance Control has served as the regulatory oversight agency for assessment and cleanup of the Crescent Mills site since spring of 2016. Department of Toxic Substance Control staff have provided support to the Crescent Mills redevelopment effort through its prioritization of this project and encouraging the agency to expedite assessment work that has been done so far. The site received a \$149,000 Targeted Site Investigation grant from the Department of Toxic Substance Control for site characterization to inform a cleanup plan.

Plumas County Department Environmental Health has tracked the Crescent Mills redevelopment effort since its onset. It was identified early on that the Department does not have the in-house capacity to serve as the regulatory oversight agency for cleanup, but has remained involved in this project and provided considerable support to the Sierra Institute regardless. During this project, Environmental Health will be notified of cleanup activities ahead of time, and will ensure that county brownfield priorities are communicated effectively to the Department of Toxic Substance Control and to project contractors.

- ii. Other Governmental Partnerships: The project team has worked closely with organizations at all level of government in its effort to redevelop the site and develop wood utilization businesses. The Plumas County Board of Supervisors, supports redevelopment of the Crescent Mills site, especially development associated with woody biomass utilization. The Sierra Institute has worked closely with the Plumas County Planning Department and the Department of Environmental Health on site reuse and development. The Plumas County Community Development Commission, another supportive entity of the proposed reuse of the Crescent Mills site, currently holds a Brownfields Assessment Grant to perform cleanup planning for the site. The Feather River Resource Conservation District is currently working on restoring the Cal Trans Wetland Mitigation Site that borders the eastern edge of the old LP mill site in Crescent Mills. The Resource Conservation District has remained supportive of our proposed reuse of the site.

Other state and federal agencies have supported many components of site planning to date, including U.S. EPA, USDA Rural Development, and US Forest Service.

c. Partnerships with Community Organizations

- i. Community Organization Description & Role:
Given the small size of the Indian Valley community (approximately 2,000 residents across Greenville, Taylorsville, and Crescent Mills), there are a very limited number of community organizations in the area, and none work on similar issues that are the Sierra Institute's focus, or have the organizational capacity to serve in a partnering role. Thus, Sierra Institute has focused its partnerships for Crescent Mills work with local government entities, as identified above. A letter from a Plumas County Supervisor is attached.

The Plumas Fire Safe Council based in Quincy has long been supportive of the proposed wood products campus at the Crescent Mills site at the Fire Safe Council is in need of local outlets for biomass material coming from their fuels reduction projects. Once site cleanup is completed, the Fire Safe Council will work with the Sierra Institute to set up supply contracts for the businesses to be located on site. A letter from the Plumas Fire Safe Council is attached.

Local non-profit radio station KQNY 91.9 has hosted Sierra Institute on the Common Good Show twice in the last few years to share updates from our biomass and economic development work with the community. The Common Good radio show's host is eager to have the Sierra Institute team back on the show to share more about the brownfield assessment and cleanup process. A letter of support is attached.

Non-profit Center for Creative Land Recycling (CCLR) has supported Sierra Institute's assessment and cleanup work on the Crescent Mills for the past two years. CCLR provides technical assistance to Sierra Institute on the cleanup process, and also connected Sierra Institute with an experienced brownfields lawyer who has been critical to assessment and cleanup work completed to date on the site. A letter of support is included.

ii. Letters of Commitment/Support: See Narrative Attachment for letters.

- d. **Partnerships with Workforce Development Programs**: The project team has worked closely with the Alliance for Workforce Development in the past and will work with them to identify local contractors who have the experience and can be involved in the cleanup work. The project team has also worked closely with a local heavy equipment operator who has experience with environmental remediation who has indicated interest in the work. This is the same business that plans to develop a firewood business on the site.

The Sierra Institute is committed to local hiring. On a separate but related note, the Sierra Institute has worked with the U.S. Forest Service to develop contracting mechanisms that are consistent with Federal Acquisitions Management regulations that improve local hiring.

4. **Project Benefits**:

- a. **Welfare, Environmental, and Public Health Benefits**: Site remediation will reduce or eliminate air and water transport of identified surface chemicals. The surrounding homes of Crescent Mills will directly benefit. Remediation will also reduce transport of chemicals by surface water flow into adjacent Indian Creek and the Feather River watershed. Indian Falls, downstream, is a popular swimming area for local residents and tourists. Indian Creek, Feather River and the reservoirs are popular fishing locations for diverse populations. Reduction of chemical and compound movement into these waters can reduce human threat through direct exposure and through ingestion by aquatic species. Successful cleanup of this site will allow for site redevelopment to occur, which will then provide a stronger local market for forest biomass, thus increasing the capacity of and incentive for forest managers to implement increased forest restoration treatments. Healthier forests and watersheds will be at lower risk of catastrophic wildfire, therefore reducing the potential of catastrophic wildfires burning through communities and destroying infrastructure and community wellbeing. Other public health benefits will include improved air quality through reduction of black carbon emissions (see footnote #2) and fine particulate matter by providing a disposal alternative to the commonly used open pile burning of biomass slash piles.

- b. Economic and Community Benefits:** Once the cleanup implementation has been conducted for the Crescent Mills site, site redevelopment efforts for the Crescent Mills wood utilization campus may proceed. As mentioned before, proposed operations include a variety of business that will generate value-added products out of low value woody material coming from forest restoration and fire risk reduction activities. The campus will promote increased forest restoration and will create a number of jobs for the local community, spurring economic development. At full build out, the proposed Crescent Mills wood utilization campus will: 1) provide an outlet for dead trees from prolonged drought and beetle kill that are currently widespread across the Sierra Nevada, posing a fire hazard to surrounding communities; 2) increase the capacity of and incentive for forest managers to conduct forest and watershed restoration efforts and hazardous fuels reduction treatments, thereby improving forest health, reducing the risk of catastrophic wildfire, and increasing carbon sequestration in northern Sierra Nevada forests; 3) improve air quality for local residents, as identified in 4.a. above; 4) strengthen the local economy in Indian Valley through development of new wood-product businesses; and 5) develop between 10 and 25 much needed jobs for the socioeconomically-depressed communities of Indian Valley and Plumas County—the cleanup itself will generate a temporary work opportunity for at least 3-4 people.

5. Programmatic Capability and Past Performance:

a. Audit Findings:

The Sierra Institute has not had any adverse financial review findings to date.

b. Programmatic Capability:

This Cleanup Grant will be managed by a program lead, with overall oversight by an executive director/program director. Sierra Institute's financial manager will be responsible for managing finances and submitting invoices to the EPA's invoicing system.

For over 25 years, Sierra Institute has successfully managed a variety of local, regional, and national projects, along with local and regional networking projects. The organization has been engaged in forest issues since it was launched in 1992, and has actively focused on woody forest biomass utilization as an integral part of reducing risk of catastrophic wildfire, creating local jobs, and improving the ecological condition of forests since 2009. The Sierra Institute is active in state and federal policy discussions, and works with multiple community organizations and businesses interested in the development of small-scale biomass utilization.

Dr. Kusel is the founder and the Executive Director of the Sierra Institute for Community and Environment. He received his Ph.D. from the University of California, Berkeley in natural resource sociology and policy, and a Masters of Forest Science from Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies. He has led the Sierra Institute for over 20 years, which has been working to help rural communities thrive by bringing people and ideas together to improve socioeconomic conditions and natural resource management. He conducted pioneering work to develop the concept and assessment of community capacity. The Clinton Administration named Dr. Kusel to Northwest Forest Management team to assess communities in the Northwest. Following this work, Dr. Kusel led both the community assessment and public involvement teams for the Congressionally funded Sierra Nevada Ecosystem Project. He pioneered a new approach to assessing rural community well-being for this project.

Camille Swezy leads the Sierra Institute's biomass program, working to advance a variety of projects in Plumas County that would increase utilization of low value wood as a means to create jobs, stimulate the local economy, and contribute to reduced fire risk in surrounding forestland. She manages project budgets,

contractors, and timelines. More recently, she has worked as the project manager for construction of a biomass heating system at a county building in Quincy, California. This work has involved managing a complex budget and a large team of engineers and contractors.

Site cleanup activities will be contracted out locally to qualified contractors, and will be based on a Removal Action Workplan that is currently in development for the site. Contracts will be awarded per EPA procurement requirements to experienced and qualified contractors.

c. Measuring Environmental Results: Anticipated Outputs/Outcomes

Outputs from this project include performance and final reports, presentation and outreach materials for community meetings, 2-3 community meetings, updates in local newspaper or on local radio station, soil capping and site cleanup, and a cleanup report. These outputs will be tracked quarterly throughout the grant term when progress reports are being written.

Outcomes from this grant and a clean site include an informed and education community and increased awareness of site redevelopment, a clean and safe site for business development and for workers (therefore allowing for important business development to proceed). Community awareness will be tracked through involved and active participation of attendees at site tours and public meetings regarding the site cleanup and redevelopment. A clean and safe site will be tracked through successful completion of a remedial action, and being able to proceed with business development.

Once business development is successful, other long term outcomes include utilization of at least 35,000 bone dry tons of biomass per year, equivalent to treating 3,000 – 4,000 acres of forest land for restoration and reduced fire risk purposes.⁵ A fully developed wood products campus will include 3-4 new businesses in Crescent Mills, generating between 15 and 25 jobs for the local community. These outcomes are simple to track and will be tracked when business on site are operational.

d. Past Performance and Accomplishments:

ii. Has Not Received an EPA Brownfields Grant but has Received Other Federal or Non-Federal Assistance Agreements

1. U.S. Forest Service Wood Innovations, 2015 - current
 - a. \$310,352
 - b. Purpose: Perform site planning for a wood products campus at the Crescent Mills site.
 - c. This grant has been active for three years, and will be closed out by the end of 2018 as funds will be fully expended and objective of the grant will have been met. The grant's scope of work was an extensive effort involving at least 8 different contractors focused on different components of site planning and advancing Sierra Institute's biomass work in Plumas County. No compliance issues arose during this grant.
 - d. Annual progress reports were submitted to the grant manager.
2. California Energy Commission EPIC Grant – 2015 - current
 - a. \$2,385,261
 - b. Purpose: Planning, engineering, and construction of a biomass heating system at the Plumas County Health and Human Services Center in Quincy, California. Sierra Institute has managed this complex grant effort, including grant management, invoicing, reporting, working to leverage

⁵ Assuming 8 – 12 bone dry tons per acre of forest

- more than \$450,000 in matching funds, managing contractors and the construction process, and more. Construction for the facility launched in August 2017. The biggest challenge has been ensuring construction stays within the available budget, and that all reports and invoices have been submitted correctly and in a timely manner. No compliance issues to date. The grant will be closed out upon completion of a data collection and monitoring period after the biomass heating system is constructed and operational.
3. USDA Rural Business Development Grant – 2015 - current
 - a. \$65,000
 - b. Purpose: Support small and emerging wood products-related businesses that will locate on the Crescent Mills site. This grant has helped Sierra Institute advance site planning and business development for the Crescent Mills site.
 - c. Monthly progress reports, no compliance issues.
 4. Sierra Nevada Conservancy Proposition 84 Grant – 2015 - current
 - a. \$350,000
 - b. Purpose: Develop a wood chip processing operation at the Crescent Mills site. Grant funds will be used to purchase necessary equipment for this business. Engineering work has already been completed. But the grant has been significantly delayed as Sierra Institute came to identify the need for the brownfield assessment and cleanup work. Once the site is cleaned up, we can move forward with equipment procurement and business development.
 - c. Six-month progress reports, no compliance issues. One grant extension applied for given the delays with site assessments and cleanup work.

Threshold Criteria Responses Attachments

- Threshold Criteria Checklist
- Community Notification Documentation:
 1. Analysis of Brownfield Cleanup Alternatives
 2. Community Notification Ad in Indian Valley Record
 3. Community Notification Flyer
 4. Community Meeting Notes
- Documentation of Non Profit Status

Threshold Criteria

1. **Applicant Eligibility:** Sierra Institute for Community and Environment is a 501c3 non-profit organization. Articles of Incorporation are included in narrative attachments.
2. **Site Ownership:** owned by Sierra Institute for Community and Environment. Purchased on October 25, 2017.
3. **Basic Site Information:**
 - a. Site name: Crescent Mills Former LP Mill Site
 - b. Address: 15690 Highway 89, Crescent Mills, CA 95934
 - c. Owner: Sierra Institute for Community and Environment
4. **Status and History of Contamination at the Site:**
 - a. The site is primarily contaminated with hazardous substances, including arsenic. Total petroleum hydrocarbon (TPH) is on site but levels are not significant.
 - b. A small-scale sawmill operated on the site until the late 1940s, by the name of Plumas Lumber Company, and whether or not a significant level of contaminants was released at this time is unknown. Louisiana Pacific company later operated a saw mill on site until the mid 1980s, and sawmill practices resulted in release of arsenic, dioxins/furans, and TPH on site. The site has remained vacant since the sawmill closed.
 - c. A site-wide characterization report completed in April 2017 (Targeted Site Investigation) identified that arsenic in soil appears to be the most widespread contaminant. Groundwater tests indicate that the arsenic in the soil has not resulted in groundwater impacts at the site. The source of arsenic that is present throughout the Crescent Mills site may be related to lumber mill operations, such as the historic practice of spreading incinerator ash for dust suppression, but could also potentially have been present in the import fill material brought to the site to raise the surface grade. The import fill may have been derived from off-site mining operations, as the Crescent Mills area has several reported gold mines and arsenic is commonly found to be associated with gold deposits. Regardless of source, arsenic concentrations reported in shallow soil exceed the established background concentration across several areas of the site.
 - d. According to assessments performed on site to date, the Louisiana Pacific sawmill contributed to contaminated soils on site. Contamination on site was primarily caused by the common practice of spraying used oil and incinerator ash on mill roads for dust suppression purposes. Other activities that may have resulted in contamination include releasing of an anti-staining application to finished wood products containing pentachlorophenol (a chemical used in the past as a biocide to protect timber from fungal staining). A Targeted Site Investigation report completed in 2017 for the site suggests that arsenic contamination is also from mine tailings that were used to initially develop the site.
5. **Brownfield Site Definition:** This site is not listed on the National Priorities List, nor subject to unilateral administrative orders, court orders, administrator orders on

consent, or judicial consent decrees issued to or entered into by parties under CERCLA, and not subject to the jurisdiction, custody, or control of the U.S. government.

6. **Environmental Assessment Required for Cleanup Proposals:**
 - a. Phase II completed November 2014
 - b. Targeted Site Investigation for full site: April 2017
 - c. Follow up site characterization: in process, to be completed by January 2018.
7. **Enforcement or Other Actions:** There are no known ongoing or anticipated environmental enforcement or other actions related to this site.
8. **Sites Requiring a Property Specific-Determination:** this site does not require a property-specific determination.
9. **Site Eligibility and Property Ownership Eligibility**—Hazardous Substance Site.

This site is contaminated with hazardous substances.

- Owner will take appropriate care regarding hazardous substances found on the site, including preventing future releases and exposures to hazardous substances.
- Owner will provide all legally required notices and cooperate with authorized response persons in the event of discovery or release of any hazardous substances at the site.
- Owner will comply with any land-use restrictions associated with response actions at the site.

(1) CERCLA Liability. Sierra Institute, the owner, is not potentially liable for contamination at the site under CERCLA.

Owner is a Bona Fide Prospective Purchaser:

- Disposal of hazardous substances at the site occurred before Sierra Institute acquired ownership
- Owner is not liable in any way for contamination on the site, or affiliated with the responsible party
- Owner has conducted All Appropriate Inquires prior to acquiring the property. A Phase I Environmental Site Assessment was completed April 28, 2017. The site was acquired on October 25, 2017—180 days from the Phase I date.

(2) Information on Liability and Defense Protections:

- a. Information on Property Acquisition
 - i. Property acquired through negotiated agreement with private individual; a lease-purchase agreement was in place for 2 years prior to Sierra Institute acquiring ownership
 - ii. Property closed on October 25, 2017
 - iii. Sole ownership
 - iv. Purchased from Greg Lehman, Gary Lehman, Jennifer Glanzmann
 - v. No relationship with prior owner other than lessor/lessee relationship.
- b. Timing and/or Contribution Toward Hazardous Substances Disposal

- i. All hazardous substances disposal occurred before Sierra Institute acquired the property. Sierra Institute has not, at any time, arranged for the disposal of hazardous substances at the site or transported hazardous substances to the site.
- c. Pre-Purchase Inquiry

The following were completed prior to Sierra Institute's involvement with the site:

- i. Preliminary Assessment/Site Inspection Report (California Environmental Protection Agency Department of Toxic Substances Control [DTSC], 1990)
 - ii. Property Transfer Site Assessment (CH2M Hill, Inc. [CH2M Hill], 1991)
 - iii. Supplemental Site Investigation Report (Geocon Consultants, Inc. [Geocon], 2002)

All completed for Sierra Institute:

- iv. Phase I (Ecology & Environment)– July 2014
Phase II (Targeted Brownfield Assessment Final Report by Ecology & Environment) – November 2014
Targeted Site Investigation (Geosyntec Consultants, oversight by California Department of Toxic Substance Control)– April 28, 2017
Phase I (Geosyntec Consultants, oversight by California Department of Toxic Substance Control)– April 28, 2017
 - v. Phase I/II (2014) – Ecology and Environment, contracted by U.S. EPA
Targeted Site Investigation and Phase I (2017) – Geosyntec Consultants, contracted by CA Department of Toxic Substance Control
 - vi. Property purchased within 180 days Phase I completion date (April 28, 2017)—Sierra Institute is a bona fide prospective purchaser
- d. Post-Acquisition Uses
 - i. No development actions have taken place since Sierra Institute acquired ownership. The site remains vacant.
- e. Continuing Obligations
 - i. Release of hazardous substances occurred before the Louisiana Pacific mill closed in the late 1980s. No industrial activities have taken place on site since then.
 - ii. Sierra Institute is in the process of developing a remedial action plan that for a site cleanup to prevent future spread of contamination, and will ensure that proposed future activity on site will be clean operations and not release hazardous substances on site.
 - iii. Sierra Institute is in the process of developing a remedial action plan that for a site cleanup to prevent or limit exposure to arsenic on site.
 - iv. Sierra Institute will comply with all land-use restrictions and institutional controls
 - v. Sierra Institute will assist and cooperate with those performing the cleanup and provide them with access to the property
 - vi. Sierra Institute will comply with all information requests and administrative subpoenas that have or may be issued in connection with the property

vii. Sierra Institute will provide all legally required notices

10. **Cleanup Authority and Oversight Structure**

- a. Plumas County does not have the capacity to oversee the cleanup, so California Department of Toxic Substance Control will serve in that capacity. All cleanup activities will be pursuant to a Removal Action Workplan that is currently under development.
- b. Sierra Institute does not anticipate cleanup activities needing access to neighboring sites. The extent of contamination on site has been extensively characterized. If it is determined that access to neighboring properties is needed, Sierra Institute will work to ensure access to these properties. Sierra Institute has maintained a good working relationship with the owner of the wetland mitigation site to the east of the Crescent Mills site.

11. **Community Notification**

- a. Draft ABCA is attached
- b. Community Notification Ad—see attachment.
- c. A public meeting was held on October 26, 2017. Meeting details and notes are included.
 - i. It is important to note that no public comments were received from the community, so such comments are not included in this application.

12. **Statutory Cost Share**

- a. Sierra Institute will meet a 20% cost share of \$40,000 from a Sierra Nevada Conservancy grant to the Sierra Institute for initial property developments. This property development work ties in directly with the process if implementing the proposed remedy as it includes general site prep activities (paving, raising the elevation, etc) making the site ready for business development.

**Analysis of Brownfield Cleanup Alternatives – Preliminary Evaluation
Former Louisiana Pacific Mill Site - Crescent Mills**

15690 Highway 89
Crescent Mills, CA 95934

October 18, 2017

Prepared by:



I. Introduction & Background

a. Site Location

The site is located at 15690 Highway 89, Crescent Mills, California, 95934. The geographic coordinates for the approximate center of the site are 40° 05' 39" North Latitude and 120° 54' 37" West Longitude. The site includes 28.129 acres of land within Assessor's parcel numbers 111-050-065, 066, 067, 111-103-001, 111-170-019, 111-084-004, and 111-102-007.

a.i Climatic Setting

Like most of the Sierra Nevada region of California, the climate in Crescent Mills is seasonal and generally dry in the summer months between June and September and wetter in the winter months between October and May. Monthly average temperatures in the nearby town of Quincy range from a low of 48° and high of 89° Fahrenheit in July to a low of 26° and high of 44° Fahrenheit in December (WorldClimate.com). According to the Plumas County Geographic Information Systems Division (2012), annual precipitation in Crescent Mills amounted to 39 to 47 inches of rain between the years 1971 and 2000. Snow in the Sierra Nevada is infrequent but possible in winter months at the elevation of Crescent Mills.

b. Previous Site Use(s)

The site was initially developed as a lumber mill in the late 1940s to early 1950s. Before the lumber mill was built, the property was likely used for agriculture. The site was purchased by Louisiana Pacific Corporation in the early 1970s and the mill was expanded. Louisiana Pacific Corporation operated the site as a lumber mill until it was closed in 1986. The Lehman family of Cinderlite Trucking Co. purchased the property from Louisiana Pacific Corporation in 1998. Sierra Institute will purchase the property by October 26, 2017.

c. Site Assessment Findings

Previous investigations performed at the site include:

- Preliminary Assessment/Site Inspection Report (California Environmental Protection Agency Department of Toxic Substances Control [DTSC], 1990)
- Property Transfer Site Assessment (CH2M Hill, Inc. [CH2M Hill], 1991)
- Supplemental Site Investigation Report (Geocon Consultants, Inc. [Geocon],

2002)

- Phase I ESA (E&E, 2014)
- Targeted Brownfield Assessment (E&E, 2014)
- Targeted Site Investigation (Geosyntec Consultants, 2017)

Copies of more recent reports can be found at <https://sierrainstitute.us/brownfields>

Throughout several site assessment efforts, arsenic in soil has appeared to be the most widespread contaminant of potential concern, appearing in several areas throughout the site above screening levels. Groundwater sampling has indicated that arsenic in the soil has not resulted in groundwater impacts at the site. The source of arsenic that is present throughout the site may be related to historic lumber mill operations and practices (such as spreading incinerator ash on the roadways for dust suppression purposes), but could also have been present in the import fill material brought to the site to raise the surface grade. The import fill may have been derived from off-site mining operations, as the Crescent Mills area has several reported gold mines and arsenic is commonly found to be associated with gold deposits. Regardless of source, arsenic concentrations in shallow soil exceed the established background concentration across much of the site.

TPH-d (total petroleum hydrocarbons in the diesel range) has also been reported in soil in numerous locations at the site in exceedance of screening levels. TPH-d was reportedly stored at the site when the sawmill was in operation, and was used to operate the boiler and various other machinery, and may have been spread on former mill roads along with waste oil for dust suppression.

Several potential contaminants were thought to be in groundwater samples in areas near the old locations of the sawmill and boiler building, including dioxins and furans, but in general, the reported concentrations of groundwater constituents were narrowly above the screening levels and may have been influenced by elevated turbidity introduced by the collection method.

More recent site assessments performed do not include evaluation or investigation of any adjacent or off-site properties that may or may not be contaminated, which is particularly pertinent as the neighboring properties to the north and east were part of the former LP lumber mill and therefore had similar use as the site. It is possible that the source of impacts observed along the property boundaries may originate off-site.

Geosyntec Consultants in their 2017 Targeted Site Investigation report recognized that the contaminants in the soil and groundwater were sufficiently delineated and the potential risk to human health in a commercial/industrial land use scenario was evaluated. The Consultants recommended:

- 1) Further investigation is not necessary and the data should be used to prepare a Feasibility Study/Remedial Action Plan for selection and implementation of an appropriate remedial alternative to facilitate the development and re-use of the site.
- 2) Though arsenic concentrations remained below the background concentration established for the site in some of the soil and wood waste stockpiles, the material in the stockpiles

should be suitable for unrestricted use only in areas where background arsenic concentrations in soil are similar.

- 3) Erosion control structures should be placed around the existing stockpiles to control run-off of sediment from the piles into the nearby storm water drop inlets and/or Indian Creek.
- 4) The existing log deck supply well and any other wells identified on the property should be decommissioned in accordance with the Plumas County Environmental Health Department and state regulations.

d. Project Goal (Site Reuse Plan)

The Indian Valley Wood Utilization Campus will implement a variety of technologies to process and convert low-value biomass material from surrounding forestland to value-added products. Development of a market for this low-value material will create forest product industry jobs and an outlet for forest restoration byproducts, therefore allowing for increased restoration and fuels reduction activities.

Developing a market for utilizing low-value forest biomass is a high priority for this region of California given the need to improve forest health and reduce fire risk. Planned biomass utilization facilities include wood chip processing, bioenergy, and other wood products businesses that utilize forest restoration byproducts and other woody waste. The planned campus will create employment opportunities in the Indian Valley community of Plumas County (a rural and socioeconomically depressed county), and contribute to reduced fire risk and increased forest and watershed health in the Upper Feather River Watershed, which is the headwaters of the California Water Project and a critical source watershed for the state. Furthermore, wood chips produced at this facility will fuel a network of biomass boilers that heat critical institutions around the county, including a heating system currently under construction at the county Health and Human Services Center. The site has the potential to bring between 15 and 30 new jobs to the rural community, depending on how many and what types of businesses are created.

II. Applicable Regulations and Cleanup Standards

a. Cleanup Oversight Responsibility

The cleanup will be overseen by the California Department of Toxic Substance Control. The site is currently listed on the DTSC EnviroStor database as site number 32240003 and project code 102305.

b. Cleanup Standards for Major Contaminants

It is anticipated that state standards for industrial re-use will be used as the cleanup standards for this property.

c. Laws and Regulations Applicable to the Cleanup

Laws and regulations applicable to this cleanup may include the Federal Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act, the federal Davis-Bacon Act, and federal, state, and local laws regarding procurement of contractors to conduct the cleanup. Appropriate permits for cleanup, if any, will be acquired from the Plumas County Building Department.

III. Cleanup Alternatives

a. Cleanup Alternatives Considered

To address contamination at the site, three different alternatives were considered, including:

Alternative #1: No Action

Alternative #2: Excavation with Offsite Disposal and Institutional Controls

Alternative #3: Capping and Institutional Controls

b. Evaluation of Cleanup Alternatives

1. The No Action Alternative is included as a baseline for comparison to other proposed alternatives. This alternative assumes that the impacted media would remain in place without treatment. This alternative would not provide mitigation of the actual or potential risks posed. If no corrective action is taken, the site may not be suitable for the planned reuse.
 - i. No costs would be incurred during the implementation of this alternative.
2. The Excavation with Offsite Disposal and Institutional Controls Alternative includes excavation of one foot of soil from unpaved surfaces, focused on the northern half of the property. Gravel (aggregate base) would be put down as backfill to the current grade. Institutional controls in the form of land use covenants may need to be recorded limiting future use of the property to industrial use. For this Alternative, contaminated and potentially contaminated soil would be removed from areas with contamination documented in exceedance of project screening levels.
 - i. Cost of this treatment per acre estimated¹ to be \$546,000.
 - ii. Much of this cost is associated with transportation and disposal of excavated soil to an offsite landfill.
3. The Capping and Institutional Controls includes laying a layer of fill as a cap and barrier to contaminated soil. Institutional controls in the form of land use covenants may need to be recorded limiting future use of the property to industrial use. In this Alternative, a barrier would be put in place over contaminated and potentially contaminated soil, but would also require ongoing monitoring and maintenance of the cap over time.
 - i. Cost of this treatment per acre estimated² to be \$61,000.
 - ii. The cost of this option is significantly less than Alternative #2 as it does not involve transportation and disposal of excavated soil to an offsite landfill. The cost per acre includes material and equipment time.

c. Recommended Cleanup Alternative

The recommended cleanup alternative is Alternative #3: Capping and Institutional Controls as it is a cost effective and efficient method to clean up the property, allow for timely redevelopment of the property, and effectively ensure the health and safety of future workers on the site. Cost effectiveness is a priority for the Sierra Institute as the cleanup will need to be fully-grant funded given the limited financial capacity of this community-based non-profit organization in the context of brownfield cleanup.

¹ Derived from estimates provided by Weston Solutions, Inc., in an Analysis of Brownfield Cleanup Alternatives report developed for the site in March 2016.

² Derived from cost estimates provided by local contractors in Plumas County.

Benefit concert slated for Hospice Music, drawings planned for November program

Debra Moore
Staff Writer
dmoores@plumasnews.com

Tickets are now on sale for the Hospice Benefit Concert, which is held every two years to support Plumas Community Hospice.

The Kepple Band, with special guests Dr. Mark Satterfield, and Garrett and Natalie Hagwood, will entertain concertgoers Saturday, Nov. 18, at the Town Hall Theatre on Main Street in Quincy. The Fish Tacos will perform a prelude.

The concert historically raises about \$8,000 to help fund the volunteer organization that

provides its services at no charge to residents of Quincy and Indian Valley.

Quincy pharmacist Karen Schad is organizing this year's event. The concert is the largest fundraiser for Plumas Community Hospice.

Schad is the owner of Quincy Pharmacy, is married to physician Dr. Joey Schad and mom to three young children, but is making time to organize the event, because of the important role it plays in the community.

"I think it's awesome that we have hospice in Plumas County," Schad said. "I'm so happy that I

am able to help out in this way."

Schad succeeded Melody Zernich who was the original organizer and Schad credited her with making the event easy to coordinate.

Tickets for the concert are \$25 and are available at Barn Owl Books, Plumas Arts, Quincy Provisions (Carey Candy Co.), Quincy Pharmacy and Quincy Hot Spot. The event typically sells out so those who want to attend should purchase tickets early. A limited number of tickets may be sold at the door.

The public can also purchase tickets for a drawing at \$5 each.

Two lucky winners will receive a quilt and three others will receive a large gift basket. Winners need not be present. Tickets will be available the night of the event, through any Hospice board member or volunteer, or at Quincy Pharmacy or Plumas Arts.

Doors open for the event at 5:45 p.m. The Fish Tacos prelude begins at 6 p.m., with the concert beginning at 6:30 p.m.

For more information about the event, call Karen Schad at 701-8563.

To learn more about Plumas Community Hospice call 283-7228.



The Board of Supervisors authorized the Public Works Department to purchase signs and will allow for the county to issue new signs. In the past, the county has been subject to signage and long waiting periods for signs. Photo by Carolyn Shipp

County to make

Carolyn Shipp
Staff Writer
cshipp@plumasnews.com

The Plumas County Public Works Department will have new street signs on demand with the approval by the county board of supervisors of sign making equipment at its Oct. 10 meeting. Public Works Director Bob Perreault asked the board to authorize the purchase of \$11,000 worth of sign making equipment and software to curb the costs of outsourcing for street sign making.

Perreault said because the county is so small, the department has had to wait when the county needs signs to increase the number of signs to lower the cost from sign manufacturers. The result has been a deficit in signage and signs that are in poor shape throughout the county.

"The fact that we would not be subject to the long waiting periods would be especially useful," said Perreault.

He cited instances, like traffic control or the recent

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Workshops scheduled to train veterans Job placement a priority for Chamber

Roni Java
Staff Writer
rjava@plumasnews.com

Local workshops to train Plumas County veterans in job-readiness skills and interview preparation are being planned for early 2018 by the Lost Sierra Chamber of Commerce, thanks to a new partnership between the chamber, Feather River College and the county's adult education program OnRamp to Employment.

"Plumas County is home to 2,000 veterans, over 10 percent of our population, and we felt there was a need for this kind of training to serve our vets," said Audrey Ellis, executive director of the chamber that is located in Graeagle.

Ellis hosted a recent planning meeting to organize the job-skills

training sessions with several local job-development and veterans specialists.

Details are still in the early stages. Plans call for the workshops to be offered free of charge and held in Chester, Indian Valley, Portola and Quincy a few months from now.

"Many veterans come out of the military thinking they have no skills," said chamber staffer Linda English. "In reality, vets are great employees. They are dependable and these workshops will help them learn to reflect their skills in their resumes and on job interviews."

Cover letters and the contents of a resume often determine who gets a job interview and who doesn't, so attendees will learn to identify marketable job skills and practice techniques for successful interviewing, among

other capabilities.

The training workshops will also be available to nonveterans as resources permit and the program plans to address barriers that can discourage a vet or other job applicant. For example, being called for two interviews after sending out multiple resumes should be considered a successful job search and not getting an interview doesn't mean the jobseeker is a failure.

Ellis explained that an additional feature of the partnership will be a focus on Plumas County job placement for vets. The chamber hopes to help employers understand how military job skills can successfully translate to private sector employment needs.

"These workshops have the potential to provide a very solid

workforce for the county,"

OnRamp Director Pam Crespin said at the planning meeting.

The partnership is made possible through the state's Adult Education Block Grant, according to Feather River College, which is serving as the fiscal agent for the grant that is authorized for up to \$13,480.

"FRC and the Plumas Unified School District's Adult Education program are excited that we have the opportunity to fund this project and hope that its success will make it an ongoing part of the county's adult education efforts," said FRC President Dr. Kevin Trutna in a statement about the partnership.

For more information about the workshops, email the Lost Sierra Chamber of Commerce at epcc@psln.com or call 836-6811.

Limits of free speech topic of essay contest

"Hate Speech - Free Speech" is the timely — and provocative — subject that the League of Women Voters of Plumas County has chosen as its topic for the 2017 High School Essay Contest.

The contest is open to all

Plumas County students in the ninth through 12th grades, including home-schooled students. In an essay of 250 words or less the students are asked whether there are any limits to free speech under the U.S.

Constitution and if, or to what extent, hateful speech is protected.

In last week's newspaper, an article announced that the essay topic would pertain to the presidency, but that was inadvertently submitted. It was last year's topic.

Flyers outlining the rules of the essay contest are being circulated this week in all Plumas County Schools giving students ample time

to research the ramifications of freedom of speech and submit their essays no later than Friday, Nov. 17.

According to League President Lori Simpson the prizes this year have been increased — first prize will garner \$250 and the three honorable mentions are \$75 each.

Address any questions to Lori Simpson at 283-0517 or Jane Braxton Little at 284-6516.

Public comments sought for Crescent Mills site

Sierra Institute is seeking public comment on its proposed cleanup remedy for the former Louisiana Pacific mill site in Crescent Mills.

Sierra Institute has been working to redevelop this abandoned "brownfield" into a wood products campus for a number of years, but efforts have been delayed as contaminated brownfields are a landmine of liability, according to Camille Swezy of the Sierra Institute.

A copy of the draft proposal and Analysis of Brownfield Cleanup Alternatives can be

found on the Sierra Institute's website sierrainstitute.us/ brownfields. Copies of both documents can be viewed at Sierra Institute's office in Taylorsville at 4438 Main St.

Comments can be submitted to Swezy at cswezy@sierrainstitute.us or by phone at 284-1022.

There will also be a public meeting in Crescent Mills on Thursday, Oct. 26, for this purpose, however the location and time has yet to be determined.

Sierra Institute anticipates owning the property by Oct. 26.

Correction

Feather Publishing wishes to correct the story on Fire Chief Jim Hamblin that appeared in our newspapers Oct. 4. While Hamblin served the Indian Valley Community Services District Fire Department for 70 years, he began his tenure as fire chief in 1984, a total of 33 years. The record belongs to Cyrus Laufman Hall who served as fire chief for the district for over 50 years.

STEPS, from page 1A

Established in the 1990s, drug court has been an effective alternative sentencing program for Plumas County drug offenders. After graduation from the program, offenders could have lightened sentences or none at all.

Since the court system is separate from the county, Hilde's decision to close the drug court was out of the county's

and they are just not capable of letting go of those feuds and allowing it to happen," said Reichle. "I am here asking the board to take the lead in reinventing the drug court because the players are not able to do it."

The "players" are the members of the Plumas County Community Corrections Partnership, which is made up of representatives from the county's probation office, district attorney's office, sheriff's office

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PUBLIC COMMENT OPPORTUNITY

Former Louisiana Pacific Mill Site Cleanup and Redevelopment



Sierra Institute is providing an opportunity for the public to comment on cleanup planning and redevelopment efforts for the old LP mill site in Crescent Mills.

A copy of a draft proposal to the U.S. EPA for cleanup funding can be found at sierrainstitute.us/brownfields

**October 26, 2017
6:00pm**

**Crescent Mills Community
Church**
School Street, Crescent Mills



For questions, contact Camille Swezy at cswezy@sierrainstitute.us or 530-284-1022



Crescent Mills Redevelopment Public Meeting Notes
October 26, 2017
6 p.m.

Present: See attached sign in sheet

[Presentation starts]

CS: We're here to give you an overview of plans for the old LP mill site, and how we plan to clean up the property given its contamination. Sierra Institute is proposing to redevelop this site into an integrated wood products campus—take low value wood and develop into marketable products. We're working with a variety of business owners interested in operating on site, to stimulate local economy and create jobs.

But, have learned that old mill sites are contaminated, and it's not just about exposure and human health, but liability for us as owners of site.

We've pursued an extensive site characterization and assessment process, funded by US EPA and California DTSC grants. We have found arsenic as the main contaminant of concern, above background levels. Arsenic has been found along the old mill roads, maybe because incinerator ash was spread to keep dust down.

When site was leveled—could have been with mine tailings

JM: I recall a cyanide mine in the area. Also the Indian Valley railroad operated in there.

MF: What about south end?

CS: Arsenic there too, yes.

JT: Do you have the data on arsenic?

CS: Yes. Background for this site is 9 mg/kg. Anything over that is pink [shows image]. This last year it was in February.

JT: When that water table goes up, arsenic will go up with it.

CS: Not sure about that process but I have heard arsenic does not leach into groundwater. They didn't find arsenic in groundwater.

JK: The assessment performed looked at arsenic, whether it was moving, if it was going down, not if it was going up to the surface. They found that it wasn't in the water below. It's in place. Background levels are determined by what's picked up on the site, that can vary. All the different samples lead you to background level.

JM: This area floods. Every 20 years a major flood. But this sounds like not that big of deal.

CS: Data doesn't indicate levels are high. We are stepping in to make sure it's safe.

JM: Moulding property to the north had a teepee burner. That's where the ash came. Dry kilns for wood. That's where the ash came from, it went all over town. You'll find it everywhere.

Jerry Sipe (County Director of Env Health): arsenic isn't associated with ash, but with materials they probably brought on site. We do know there's a ton of arsenic at Engel Mine, it's actually in the rock. It's not part of ash, not dissolving in water. Good for when we get flooding events.

JK: The bad news, there's arsenic. Good news, concentrations aren't so high that we have to dispose of it. We get told what we have to do. It's not that high. Groundwater sampling through core drilling.

CS: We are proposing a solid cap of concrete or fill over contaminated soil. Won't be as worried about areas below background level but up to official cleanup grant currently in development. Cleanup plan will take data and Risk Assessment into consideration. Risk Assessment will look at data, determine extent of effect on human health.

JM: How high are you going to raise it?

JK: 12 – 18 inches, then buildings go higher. Start with cap, first level, then still build up.

MF: Concrete cap already there? Can't you just leave it?

CS: DTSC says there are a lot of cracks, not good enough. If we do this cap, still need to monitor it.

JK: Look at cap integrity. Keep it maintained.

JM: You should just tear it all out, re use it

MF: How many inches of cap?

JK: It will be an incremental process

CS: Phase it, start with 5-6 acres.

JK: We want good portion to be capped and ready to take businesses.

CS: Gravel, dirt fill.

JM: Cement?

JK: Don't have to use cement. This is out of our expertise, but we're bringing in experts for this work.

JM: What kind of equipment?

JK: Beyond us. We're happy to be at this stage, purchased property. We have had mill experts out there, they know weight needs, etc.

MF: Cap with soil?

CS: more recently we had southern end sampled. No samples had arsenic above background except for one area, still only 3 mg/kg above background. Now looking into if this fill meets geotechnical standards for reuse as cap.

MF: Develop into nature reserve?

CS: Has a heavy industry zoning, unlikely someone would take that direction. The adjacent property is a Cal Trans wetland mitigation site. Ongoing restoration work out there.

JM: I have seen no change in bird populations.

JK: The good thing is sampling came back ok.

CS: Fill from southern area came from digging down wetlands site. They deposited it on this site.

MF: Where on site will bioenergy facility go?

CS: Close to substation

JM: Piles? Those all came from the river bed. Great topsoil.

MF: Will those piles be gone?

JK: Yes, but low arsenic in there too. Part of purchase agreement—they will take that material away so it doesn't collapse on someone.

CS: Give us a call if you have more questions.

MF: Next thing? Raising money for cleanup?

CS: yes, pursuing an EPA grant that funds cleanup

JT: Has grant been applied for?

CS: Not yet, due soon. Will fund activities for cleanup. Announced in the spring of next year. National program, a lot of cities are typical grantees. EPA likes us because we're rural.

JT: Worried that all the stuff in Florida and Texas demolished, government won't have much money.

CS: Funding for this grant has been secured and appropriated.

JK: There are certain requirements that people have to have met. Texas and Florida will have to pull things together in a quick timeline. Of course we may not get grant. We're just trying to get site ready to go. Opportunities from a business stand point, maybe that could create money to do this work.

JT: Are you calling this the Brownfield?

CS: It's a general term. Industrial site with contamination.

MF: Have you calculated cleanup costs?

CS: Yes, we're estimated \$60k/ acre based on our proposed cleanup remedy. Overall 28 acres, short term 6-8 acres. This is for materials, trucking costs, etc.

JK: We do have some sampling money through Plumas County Community Development Commission. Money in there to do planning, work that needs to be done. There's a stepwise process we need to go through. We actually have that in hand. We've spent 3.5 years out there, raised a lot of money. Not going to give up now. We now own it.

MF: Can I make a request? River is so beautiful, village so close, but it's so far away. So hard to get to the river. Can we have some sort of access to the public to walk down through the site.

JK: Can be explored, but won't happen in near term, arsenic, also hazardous piles. Liability issue. Need to remediate before we can even think about it.

MF: Would be great to connect village to river. It's so beautiful but so cut off.

JM: Caltrans doesn't want you on that property.

JK: This is the Indian Valley wood products campus. We're trying to do a variety of things, want to the jobs out there. There is current opportunity for small scale bioenergy with state program requiring PG&E to purchase this electricity.

JT: Who owns this business?

JK: Need to work that out. We're not going to become a big industrial operation, but we're trying to bring in some businesses to create jobs. Trying to do it in a way that we can still be involved. It's our backyard. Jackie probably doesn't want to see big smoke stacks out there.

JM: Well I don't expect to see that ever again....

JT: Where does ash go?

CS: Gets worked out by developer.

JT: Fertilizer to farmers?

CS: In Quincy, we're just landfilling until we can set up contracts with someone who actually wants it.

JK: We're figuring what's economical, what makes sense, what's environmentally sound.

JT: Has anybody done a traffic study? In terms of trucks coming in and out?

JK: Not yet. will have to figure out what county will require. Use of property is permitted by zoning. Won't be a lot of trucks relative to how many trucks are already on the road. Loggers are interested.

JT: Water usage?

JK: Won't need much water. The CSD knows what we're doing. Still some questions about the well, whether we can use that.

JT: Tank that supplies CM is barely enough for CM and fire department. We pull from that too. A lot of the water mains are too small.

JK: So that tank is close to capacity or limited?

JT: It's about 85%.

JK: Good to know. We'll look into that now. When we talked to CSD when we planned to use a different technology that would have used more water, they said it's ok.

MF: Carbon sequestration?

CS: Research right now on sourcing material from a sustainably managed forest, put that into a wood product, that product is storing carbon.

JK: Any other concerns or questions?

JT: Emissions? Film of actual plant running? Is steam generated?

CS: We're talking a 3 MW facility. The Sierra Pacific Industries mill in Quincy is 28 MW, that produces a good amount. We're also looking at a technology with a better emissions profile than stream turbine technology.

JK: We'll also avoid pile burning in the woods—that helps the air quality.

JT: What to use for fuel to heat mill? Match?

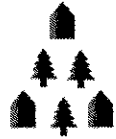
JK: That's why you don't turn it on turn it off. Not like a propane boiler where start clicks and it goes. It takes awhile to heat up. We're dealing with this right now at the facility in Quincy, smaller and only for heating, but we'll learn from that. We want to use the heat so we can increase efficiency, make electricity and use heat.

MF: In terms of excess heat, can you heat the town?

CS: Yes, but we'd have to cross the rail line, and that's some complicated permitting.

JK: It can be done, European communities are doing this all the time. Heating communities with biomass heat. Burns OR doing it too.

Meeting ends at 7pm



Sierra Institute

for Community and Environment

Crescent Mills Brownfield Cleanup

Public Meeting

October 26, 2017

Please sign in:

Name

Resident of?

Email

MAT FOGARTY	CM	MAT.FOGARTY@CMMAIC.com
Jackie McLaughlin	CM	
JERRY THRALL	CM	
Jonathan Kusel		
Jerry Sipe	Quincy	

Note: Meeting hosted by Camille Swezy and Jonathan Kusel of the Sierra Institute

A0625262

**CERTIFICATE OF AMENDMENT OF
ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION**

ENDORSED - FILED
In the office of the Secretary of State
of the State of California

JAN 31 2005

The undersigned certify that:

1. They are the **president** and the **secretary**, respectively, of Forest Community Research, a California corporation.

2. Article I of the Articles of Incorporation of this corporation is amended to read as follows:

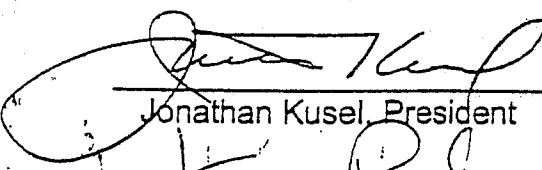
The name of this corporation is **Sierra Institute for Community and Environment**.

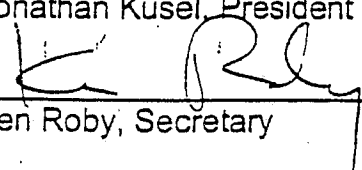
3. The foregoing amendment of Articles of Incorporation has been duly approved by the board of directors.

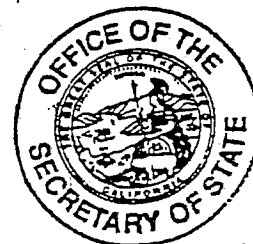
4. The corporation has no members.

We further declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the matters set forth in this certificate are true and correct of our own knowledge.

DATE: 1-25-05


Jonathan Kusel, President


Ken Roby, Secretary



ENDORSED
FILEDIn the office of the Secretary of State
of the State of California

OCT 27 1997


BILL JONES, Secretary of State

ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION

I

The name of this corporation is Forest Community Research.

II

A. This corporation is a nonprofit **PUBLIC BENEFIT CORPORATION** and is not organized for the private gain of any person. It is organized under the Nonprofit Public Benefit Corporation Law for public purpose.

B. The specific purpose of this corporation is to advance education and science.

III

The name and address in the State of California of this corporation's initial agent for service of process is:

Jonathan Kusel
1657 Diamond Mountain Road
Greenville, CA. 95947

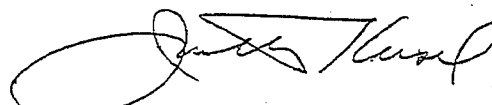
IV

A. This corporation is organized and operated exclusively for public purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3), Internal Revenue Code.

B. No substantial part of the activities of this corporation shall consist of carrying on propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the corporation shall not participate or intervene in any political campaign (including the publishing or distribution of statements) on behalf of any candidate for public office.

V

The property of this corporation is irrevocably dedicated to public benefit purposes and no part of the net income or assets of this corporation shall ever inure to the benefit of any director, officer or member thereof or to the benefit of any private person. Upon the dissolution or winding up of the corporation, its assets remaining after payment, or provision for payment, of all debts and liabilities of this corporation shall be distributed to a nonprofit fund, foundation or corporation which is organized and operated exclusively for public benefit purposes and which has established its tax exempt status under Section 501(c)(3), Internal Revenue Code.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Jonathan Kusel".

Jonathan Kusel, Incorporator

ARTICLE 3. DIRECTORS

SECTION 1. NUMBER

The corporation shall have not less than three (3) or more than fifteen (15) Directors, with the exact number to be fixed within these limits by approval of the Board of Directors. Collectively they shall be known as the Board of Directors. The number may be changed by the amendment of this Bylaw, or by repeal of this Bylaw and adoption of the new Bylaw, as provided in these Bylaws.

SECTION 2. POWERS

Subject to the provisions of the California Nonprofit Public Benefit Corporation law and any limitations in the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws relating to action required or permitted to be taken or approved by the members, if any, of this corporation, the activities and affairs of this corporation shall be conducted and all corporate powers shall be exercised by or under the direction of the Board of Directors.

SECTION 3. DUTIES

It shall be the duty of the Directors to:

- (a) Perform any and all duties imposed on them collectively or individually by law, by the Articles of Incorporation of this corporation, or by these Bylaws;
- (b) Appoint and remove, employ and discharge, and, except as otherwise provided in these Bylaws, prescribe the duties and fix the compensation, if any, of all officers, agents and employees of the corporation;
- (c) Supervise all officers, agents, and employees of the corporation to assure that their duties are performed properly;
- (d) Meet at such times and places as required by these Bylaws;
- (e) Register their addresses with the Secretary of the corporation and notices of meetings mailed or telegraphed to them at such addresses shall be valid notice thereof.

SECTION 4. TERMS OF OFFICE

The term each Director shall hold office will be three year terms and until his or her successor is elected and qualifies. One third of the Board of Directors will be elected at the annual meeting of the corporation, which will be held in **May** of each year. A person elected to fill an uncompleted term shall have an initial term of office, which expires when the original term would be scheduled to expire. There is no limit to the number of terms a Director may serve.

SECTION 5. COMPENSATION

Directors shall serve without compensation except that they shall be allowed and paid their actual and necessary expenses incurred in attending directors meetings. In addition, they shall be allowed reasonable advancement or reimbursement of expenses incurred in the performance of their regular duties as specified in Section 3 of this Article. Directors may not be compensated

for rendering services to the corporation in any capacity other than director unless such other compensation is reasonable and is allowable under the provisions of Section 6 of this Article.

SECTION 6. RESTRICTION REGARDING INTERESTED DIRECTORS

Notwithstanding any other provisions of these Bylaws, not more than forty-nine percent (49%) of the persons serving on the Board may be interested persons. For purposes of this Section, "interested persons," means either:

- (a) Any person currently being compensated by the corporation for services rendered it within the previous twelve (12) months, whether as a full-or part –time officer or other employee, independent contractor, or otherwise, excluding any reasonable compensation paid to a Director as Director; or
- (b) Any brother, sister, ancestor, descendent, spouse, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, mother-in-law, or father-in-law of any such person.

SECTION 7. PLACE OF MEETING

Meetings shall be held at the principal office of the corporation unless otherwise provided by the Board or at such place within or without the State of California, which has been designated from time to time by resolution of the Board of Directors. In the absence of such designation, any meeting not held at the principal office of the corporation shall be valid only if held on the written consent of all Directors given either before or after the meeting and filed with the Secretary of the corporation or after all Board members have been given written notice of the meeting as hereinafter provided for special meetings of the Board. Any meeting, regular or special, may be held by conference telephone or similar communications equipment, so as long as all Directors participating in such meeting can hear one another.

SECTION 8. REGULAR AND ANNUAL MEETINGS

Regular meetings of Directors shall be held **quarterly on dates and times designated by resolution of the Board of Directors. Additional meetings of Directors may be held on dates and at times designated by resolution of the Board of Directors.**

If this corporation makes no provision for members, then, at the annual meeting of directors new or additional directors shall be elected by the Board of Directors in accordance with this section. Cumulative voting by Directors for the election of Directors shall not be permitted. The candidates receiving the highest number of votes up to the number of Directors to be elected shall be elected. Each director shall cast one vote, with voting being by ballot only.

SECTION 9. SPECIAL MEETINGS

Special meetings of the Board of Directors may be called by the Chairperson of the board, the President, Vice President, or Secretary, and such meetings shall be held at the place, within California, designated by the person or persons calling the meeting, and in the absences of such designation, at the principal office of the corporation.

SECTION 10. NOTICE OF MEETINGS

Until such time that regular meetings of the Board occur on dates and at times which are specified in these Bylaws, regular meetings of the Board may not be held without notice. Regular and special meetings of the Board shall be held upon four (4) day's notice by first-class mail or forty-eight (48) hours' not delivered personally or by telephone, electric communication devices or media, or telegraph. If sent by mail or telegraph, the notice shall be deemed to be delivered on its deposit in the mails or on its delivery to the telegraph company. Such notices shall be addressed to each Director at his or her address as shown on the books of the corporation. Notice of the time and place of holding an adjourned meeting need not be given to absent Directors if the time and place of the adjourned meeting are fixed at the meeting adjourned and if such adjourned meeting is held no more than twenty-four (24) hours from the time of the original meeting. Notice shall be given of any adjourned, regular, or special meeting to Directors absent from the original meeting if the adjourned meeting is held more than twenty-four (24) hours from the time of the original meeting.

SECTION 11. CONTENTS OF NOTICE

Notice of meetings not herein dispensed with shall specify the place, day, and hour of the meeting. The purpose of any Board meeting need not be specified in the notice.

SECTION 12. WAIVER OF NOTICE AND CONSENT TO HOLDING MEETINGS

The transactions of any meetings of the Board, however called and noticed or wherever held, are as valid as though the meeting has been duly held after proper call and notice, provide a quorum, as hereinafter defined, is present and provide that either before or after the meeting each Director not present signs a waiver of notice, as consent to holding the meeting, or approval of the minutes thereof. All such waivers, consents, or approvals shall be filed with the corporate records or made a part of the minutes of the meeting.

SECTION 13. QUORUM FOR MEETINGS

A quorum shall consist of a majority of the Board of Directors **then in office**.

Except as otherwise provided in these Bylaws or in the Articles of Incorporation of this corporation, or by law, no business shall be considered by the Board at any meeting at which a quorum, as hereinafter defined, is not present, and the only motion which the Chair shall entertain at such meeting is a motion to adjourn. However, a majority of the Directors present at such meeting may adjourn from time to time until the time fixed for the next regular meeting of the Board.

When a meeting is adjourned for lack of quorum, it shall not be necessary to give any notice of the time and place of the adjourned meeting or of the business to be transacted at such meeting, other than by announcement at the meeting at which the adjournment is taken, except as provided in Section 10 of this Article.

The Directors present at a duly called and held meeting at which a quorum is initially present may continue to do business notwithstanding the loss of a quorum at the meeting due to a withdrawal of Directors from the meeting, provided that any action thereafter taken must be approved by at least a majority of the required quorum for such meeting or such greater percentage as may be required by law, or Articles of Incorporation or Bylaws of this corporation.

SECTION 14. MAJORITY ACTION AS BOARD ACTION

Every act or decision done or made by majority of the Directors present at a meeting duly held at which a quorum is present is the act of the Board of Directors, unless the Articles of Incorporation or Bylaws of this corporation, or provisions of the California Nonprofit Public Benefit Corporation Law, particularly those provisions relating to appointment of committees (Section 5212), approval of contract and transactions in which a Director has a material financial interest (Section 5233) and indemnification of Directors (Section 5238e), require a greater percentage or different voting rules for approval of a matter by the Board.

SECTION 15. CONDUCT OF MEETINGS

Meetings of the Board of Director shall be presided over the Chairperson of the Board, or, if no such person has been designated or, in his or her absence, the President of the corporation or, in his or her absence, by the Vice President of the corporation or, in the absence of each of these persons, by Chairperson chosen by a majority of the directors present at the meetings. The Secretary of the corporation shall act as secretary of all meetings of the board, provided that, in his or her absence, the presiding officer shall appoint another person to act as Secretary of the meeting.

Meetings shall be governed by Robert's Rule of Order, as such ruled may be revised from time to time, insofar as such rules are not inconsistent with or conflict with these Bylaws, with the Articles of Incorporation of this corporation, or with provisions of law.

SECTION 16. ACTION BY UNANIMOUS WRITTEN CONSENT WITHOUT MEETING

Any action required or permitted to be taken by the Board of Directors under any provision of law may be taken without a meeting, if all members of the Board shall individually or collectively consent in writing to such action. For the purposes of this Section only, "all member of the Board" shall not include any "interested Director" as defined in Section 5233 of the California nonprofit Public Benefit Corporation Law. Such written consent or consents shall be filed with the minutes of the proceedings of the Board. Such action by written consent shall have the same force and effect as the unanimous vote of the Directors. Any certificate or other document filed under any provision of the unanimous vote of the Directors. Any certificate or other document filed under any provision of law which relates to action so taken shall state that action was taken by unanimous written consent of the Board of Directors without a meeting and that the Bylaws of this corporation authorize the Directors to so act, and such statement shall be prima facie evidence of such authority.

SECTION 17. VACANCIES

Vacancies on the Board of Directors shall exist (1) on the death, resignation, or removal of any Director, and (2) whenever the number of authorized Directors is increased.

The Board of Directors may declare vacant the office of a Director who has been declared of unsound mind by a final order of the court, or convicted of a felony, or been found by a final order or judgment of any court to have breached any duty under Section 5230 and following of the California Nonprofit Public Benefit Corporation Law, or ***not participate or communicate with officers of the Board or their designee for over one year.***

If this corporation has no members, Directors may be removed without cause by a majority of the Directors then in office.

Any Director may resign effective upon giving written notice to the President, the Secretary, or the Board of Directors, unless the notice specifies a later time for the effectiveness of such resignation. No Director may resign if the corporation would then be left without a duly elected Director or Directors in charge of its affairs, except upon notice to the Attorney General.

Vacancies on the Board may be filled by approval of the Board or, if the number of Directors then in office is less than quorum, by (1) the unanimous written consent of the Directors then in the office, (2) the affirmative vote of a majority of the Directors then in the office at a meeting held pursuant to notice or waivers of notice complying with this Article of these Bylaws, or (3) a sole remaining Director.

A person elected to fill a vacancy as provided by this Section shall hold office until the term for that vacancy expires or until his or her death, resignation, or removal from office.

SECTION 18. NON-LIABILITY OF DIRECTORS

The Directors shall not be personally liable for the debts, liabilities, or other obligations of the corporation.

SECTION 19. INDEMNIFICATION BY CORPORATION OF DIRECTORS, OFFICERS, EMPLOYEES AND OTHER AGENTS

To the extent that a person who is, or was, a Director, officer, employee or other agent of this corporation has been successful on the merits in defense of any civil, criminal, administrative, or investigative proceeding brought to procure a judgment against such person by reason of the fact that he or she is, or was, an agent of the corporation, or has been successful in defense of any claim, issue, or matter, therein, such person shall be indemnified against expenses actually and reasonably incurred by the person in connection with such proceeding.

If such person either settles any such claim or sustains a judgment against him or her, then indemnification against expenses, judgments, fines, settlements, and other amounts reasonably incurred in connection with such proceedings shall be provided by this corporation but only to the extent allowed by, and in accordance with the requirements of, Section 5238 of the California Nonprofit Public Benefit Corporation Law.

SECTION 20. INSURANCE FOR CORPORATE AGENTS

The Board of Directors may adopt a resolution authorizing the purchase and maintenance of insurance on behalf of any agent of the corporation (including a Director, officer, employee, or other agent of the corporation) against any liability other than for violating provisions of law relating to self-dealing (Section 5233 of the California Nonprofit Public Benefit Corporation law) asserted against or incurred by the agent in such capacity or arising out of the agent's status as such, whether or not the corporation would have the power to indemnify the agent against such liability under the provisions of Section 5238 of the California Nonprofit Public Benefit Corporation Law.

ARTICLE 4. OFFICERS

SECTION 1. NUMBER OF OFFICERS

The officers of the corporation shall be a President, a Secretary, and Chief Financial Officer who shall be designated the Treasurer. The corporation may also have, as determined by the Board of Directors, one or more Vice Presidents, Assistant Secretaries, Assistant Treasurers, or other officers. Any number of offices may be held by the same person except that neither the Secretary nor the Treasurer may serve as the President.

SECTION 2. QUALIFICATION, ELECTION, AND TERM OF OFFICE

Any person may serve as officer of this corporation. Officers shall be elected by the Board of Directors, at any time, and each officer shall hold office for three years, or until she or she resigns or is removed or is otherwise disqualified to serve, or until his or her successor shall be elected and qualified, whichever occurs first.

SECTION 3. SUBORDINATE OFFICERS

The Board of Directors may appoint such other officers or agents as it may deem desirable, and such officers shall serve such terms, have such authority, and perform such duties as may be prescribed from time to time by the Board of Directors.

SECTION 4. REMOVAL AND RESIGNATION

Any officer may be removed, either with or without cause, by the Board of Directors, at any time. Any officer may resign at any time by giving written notice to the Board of Directors or to the President or Secretary of the corporation. Any such resignation shall take effect at the date of receipt of such notice or at any later date specified therein, and, unless otherwise specified therein, the acceptance of such resignation shall not be necessary to make it effective. The above provisions of this Section shall be suspended by any conflicting terms of a contract, which has been approved or ratified by the Board of Directors relating to the employment of any officer of the corporation.

SECTION 5. VACANCIES

Any vacancy caused by the death, resignation, removal, disqualification, or otherwise, of any officer shall be filled by the Board of Directors. In the event of a vacancy in any office other than that of President, such vacancy may be filled temporarily by appointment by the President until such time as the Board shall fill the vacancy. Vacancies occurring in the offices of the officers appointed at the discretion of the Board may or may not be filled, as the Board shall determine.

SECTION 6. DUTIES OF THE PRESIDENT

The President shall be the chief executive officer of the corporation and shall, subject to the control of the Board of Directors, supervise and control the affairs of the corporation and the activities of the officers. He or she shall perform all duties incident to his or her office and such other duties as may be required by law, by the Articles of Incorporation of this corporation, or by these Bylaws, or which may be prescribed from time to time by the Board of Directors. He or she will preside at all meetings of the Board of Directors. Except as otherwise expressly provided by the law, by the Articles of Incorporation, or by these Bylaws, he or she shall, in the name of the

corporation, execute such deeds, mortgages, bonds, contracts, checks, or other instruments which may from time to time be authorized by the Board of Directors.

SECTION 7. DUTIES OF VICE PRESIDENT

In the absence of the President, or in the event of his or her inability or refusal to act, the Vice President shall perform all the duties of the President, and when so acting shall have all the powers of, and be subject to all the restrictions on, the President. The Vice President shall have other powers and perform such other duties as may be prescribed by law, by the Articles of Incorporation, or by these Bylaws, or as may be prescribed by the Board of Directors.

SECTION 8. DUTIES OF SECRETARY

The Secretary shall:

Certify and keep at the principal office of the corporation the original, or a copy of these Bylaws as amended or otherwise altered to date.

Keep at the principal office of the corporation or at such other place as the Board may determine, a book of minutes of all meetings of the Directors, and, if applicable, meetings of committees of Directors and of members, recording therein the time and place of holding, whether regular or special, how called, how notice thereof was given, the names of those present or represented at the meeting and the proceedings thereof.

See that all notices are duly given in accordance with the provisions of these Bylaws or as required by law.

Be custodian of the records and of the seal of the corporation and see that the seal is affixed to all duly executed documents, the execution of which on behalf of the corporation under its seal is authorized by law or these Bylaws.

Keep at the principal office of the corporation a membership book containing the name and address of each and any members, and, in the case where any membership has been terminated, he or she shall record such fact in the membership book together with the date on which such membership ceased.

Exhibit at all reasonable times to any Director of the corporation, or to his or her agent or attorney, on request therefore, the Bylaws, the membership book, and the minutes of the proceedings of the Directors of the corporation.

In general, perform all duties incident to the office of the Secretary and such other duties as may be required by law, by the Articles of Incorporation of this corporation, or by these Bylaws, or which may be assigned to him or her from time to time by the Board of Directors.

SECTION 9. DUTIES OF TREASURER

Subject to the provisions of these Bylaws relating to the "Execution of Instruments, Deposits and Funds," the Treasurer shall:

Have charge and custody of, and be responsible for, all funds and securities of the corporation, and deposit all such funds in the name of the corporation in such banks, trust companies, or other depositories as shall be selected by the Board of Directors.

Receive, and give receipt for, monies due and payable to the corporation from any source whatsoever.

Disburse, or cause to be disbursed, the funds of the corporation as may be directed by the Board of Directors, taking proper vouchers for such disbursements.

Keep and maintain adequate and correct accounts of the corporation's properties and business transactions, including accounts of its assets, liabilities, receipts, disbursements, gains, and losses.

Exhibit at all reasonable times the books of account and financial records to any Director of the corporation, or to his or her agent or attorney, on request therefore.

Render to the President and Directors, whenever requested, an account of any or all of his or her transactions as Treasurer and of the financial condition of the corporation.

Prepare, or cause to be prepared, and certify, or cause to be certified, the financial statements to be included in any required reports.

In general, perform all duties incident to the officer of the Treasurer and such other duties as may be required by law, by the Articles of Incorporation of the corporation, or by these Bylaws, or which may be assigned to him or her from time to time by the Board of Directors.

SECTION 10. COMPENSATION

The salaries of the officers, if any, shall be fixed from time to time by resolution of the Board of Directors, and no officer shall be prevented from receiving such salary by reason of the fact that he or she is also a Director of the corporation, provided, however, that such compensation paid a Director for serving as an officer of this corporation shall only be allowed if permitted under the provisions of Article 3, Section 6 of these Bylaws. In all cases, any salaries received by the officers of this corporation shall be reasonable and given in return for services actually rendered for the corporation which relate to the performance of charitable or public purposes of this corporation.

ARTICLE 5. COMMITTEES

SECTION 1. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Board of Directors may, by majority vote of directors, designate two or more of its members (who may also be serving as officers of this corporation) to constitute an Executive Committee and delegate to such Committee any of the powers and authority of the board in the management of the business and affairs of the corporation, except with respect to:

- (a) The approval of any action, which, under law or provisions of these Bylaws, requires the approval of the members or of a majority of all of the members.
- (b) The filling of vacancies on the board or on any committee, which has the authority of the board.
- (c) The fixing of compensation of the directors for serving on the board or on any committee.
- (d) The amendment or repeal of Bylaws or the adoption of new Bylaws.
- (e) The amendment or repeal or any resolution of the board, which by its express terms is not so amenable or repeatable.

- (f) The appointment of committees of the board or the members thereof.
- (g) The expenditure of corporate funds to support a nominee for the director after there are more people nominated for director than can be elected.
- (h) The approval of any transaction to which this corporation is a party and in which one or more of the directors has a material financial interest, except as expressly provided in Section 5233(d)(3) of the California Nonprofit Public Benefit Corporation Law.

By a majority vote of its members then in office, the board may at any time revoke or modify any or all of the authority so delegated, increase or decrease but not below three the number of its members, and fill vacancies therein from the members of the board. The committee shall keep regular minutes of its proceedings; cause them to be filled with corporate records, and reports the same to the board from time to time as the board may require.

SECTION 2. OTHER COMMITTEES

The corporation shall have such other committees as may from time to time be designated by resolution of the Board of Directors. Such other committees may consist of persons who are not also members of the Board. These additional committee shall act in an advisory capacity only to the Board and shall be clearly titled as “advisory” committees.

SECTION 3. MEETINGS AND ACTION OF COMMITTEES

Meetings and action of committees shall be governed by, noticed, held and taken in accordance with the provisions of these Bylaws concerning meetings of the Board of Directors, with such changes in the context of such Bylaw provisions as are necessary to substitute the committee and its members for the Board of Directors and its members, except that the time for regular meetings of committees may be fixed by resolution of the Board of Directors or by the committee. The time for special meetings of committees may also be fixed by the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors may also adopt rules and regulations pertaining to the conduct of meetings of committees to the extent that such rules and regulations are not inconsistent with the provisions of these Bylaws.

ARTICLE 6. EXECUTION OF INSTRUMENTS, DEPOSITS AND FUNDS

SECTION 1. EXECUTION OF INSTRUMENTS

The Board of Directors, except as otherwise provided in these Bylaws, may by resolution authorize any officer or agent of the corporation to enter into any contract or execute and deliver any instrument in the name of and on behalf of the corporation, and such authority may be general or confined to specific instances. Unless so authorized, no officer, agent, or employee shall have any power or authority to bind the corporation by any contract or engagement or to pledge its credit or to render it liable monetarily for any purpose or in any amount.

SECTION 2. CHECKS AND NOTES

Except as otherwise specifically determined by resolution of the Board of Directors, or as otherwise required by law, checks, drafts, promissory notes, orders for the payment of money, and other evidence of indebtedness of the corporation shall be signed by the Treasurer and countersigned by the President of the corporation.

SECTION 3. DEPOSITS

All funds of the corporation shall be deposited from time to time to the credit of the corporation in such banks, trust companies, or other depositories as the Board of directors may select.

SECTION 4. GIFTS

The Board of Directors may accept on behalf of the corporation any contribution, gift, bequest, or devise for the charitable or public purposes of this corporation.

ARTICLE 7. CORPORATE RECORDS, REPORTS AND SEAL

SECTION 1. MAINTENANCE OF CORPORATE RECORDS

The corporation shall keep at its principal office in the State of California:

- (a) Minutes of all meetings of Directors and committees of the Board, indicating the time and place of holding such meetings, whether regular or special, how called, the notice given, and the names of those present and the proceedings thereof;
- (b) Adequate and correct books and records of account, including accounts of its properties and business transactions and accounts of its assets, liabilities, receipts, disbursements, gains, and losses;
- (c) A record of its members, if any, indicating their names and addresses and, if applicable, the class of membership held by each member and the termination date of any membership;
- (d) A copy of the corporations' Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws as amended to date, which shall be open to inspection by the members, if any, of the corporation at all reasonable times during office hours.

SECTION 2. CORPORATE SEAL

The Board of Directors may adopt, use, and at will alter, a corporate seal. Such seal shall be kept at the principal office of the corporation. Failure to affix the seal to corporate instruments, however, shall not affect the validity of any such instrument.

SECTION 3. DIRECTORS' INSPECTION RIGHTS

Every Director shall have the absolute right at any reasonable time to inspect and copy all books, records, and documents of every kind and to inspect the physical properties of the corporation.

SECTION 4. RIGHT TO COPY AND MAKE EXTRACTS

Any inspection under the provisions of this Article may be made in person or by agent or attorney and the right to inspection included the right to copy and make extracts.

SECTION 6. ANNUAL REPORT

The Board shall cause an annual report to be furnished not later than one hundred and twenty (120) days after the close of the corporation's fiscal year to all Directors of the corporation, which report shall contain the following information in appropriate detail:

- (a) The assets and liabilities, including the trust funds, of the corporation as of the end of the fiscal year;
- (b) The principal changes in assets and liabilities, including trust funds, during the fiscal year;
- (c) The revenue or receipts of the corporation, both unrestricted and restricted to particular purposes, for the fiscal year;
- (d) The expenses or disbursements of the corporation, for both general and restricted purposes during the fiscal year;
- (e) Any information required by Section 7 of this Article.

The annual report shall be accompanied by any report thereon of independent accountants, or, if there is no such report, the certificate of an authorized officer of the corporation that such statements were prepared without audit from the books and records of the corporation.

SECTION 7. ANNUAL STATEMENT OF SPECIFIC TRNSACTIONS TO MEMBERS

This corporation shall mail or deliver to all Directors a statement within one hundred and twenty (120) days after the close of its fiscal year, which briefly describes the amount and circumstances of any indemnification or transaction of the following kind:

- (a) Any transaction in which the corporation, or its parent or its subsidiary, was a party, and in which either of the following has a direct or indirect material financial interest
 - (1) Any Director or officer of the corporation, or its parent or subsidiary (a mere common directorship shall not be considered a material financial interest); or
 - (2) Any holder of more than ten percent (10%) of the voting power of the corporation, its parent or its subsidiary.

The above statement need only be provided with respect to a transaction during the previous fiscal year and involving more than FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$50,000) or which was one of a number of transactions with the same persons involving, in the aggregate, more than FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$50,000).

Similarly, the statement need only be provided with respect to indemnifications or advances aggregating more than TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$10,000) paid during the previous fiscal year to any Director or officer, except that no such statement need be made if such indemnification was approved by the members pursuant to Section 5238 (e)(2) of the California Nonprofit Benefit Corporation Law.

Any statement required by this Section shall briefly describe the names of the interested persons involved in such transactions, stating each person's relationship to the corporation, the nature of such person's interest in the transaction and, where practical, the amount of such interest, provided that in the case of a transaction with a partnership of which such person is a partner, only the interest of the partnership need be stated.

ARTICLE 8. FISCAL YEAR

SECTION 1. FSICAL YEAR OF THE CORPORATION

The fiscal year of the corporation shall begin on the first day of January and end on the last day of December in each year.

ARTICLE 9. AMENDMENT OF BYLAWS

SECTION 1. AMENDMENT

Subject to any provision of law applicable to the amendment of Bylaws of public benefit nonprofit corporations, these Bylaws, or any of them, may be altered, amended, or repealed and new Bylaws adopted as follows:

- (a) Proposed amendment(s) shall be mailed to members of the Board of Directors at least seven (7) days prior to their reading at a Board meeting. A two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present and voting shall pass the amendment(s), provided that any amendment to this Article 9 or any amendment which would decrease the number of existing Directors or remove any existing Director shall require a favorable vote of majority of all Board members currently in office for passage.
- (b) Any amendment(s) to the proposed amendment(s) shall follow the same procedure as the original amendment(s).

ARTICLE 10. AMENDMENT OF ARTICLES

SECTION 1. AMENDMENT OF ARTICLES BEFORE ADMISSION OF MEMBERS

Before any members have been admitted to the corporation, any amendment of the Articles of Incorporation may be adopted by the approval of the Board of Directors and by the approval of the members of this corporation.

SECTION 2. AMENDMENT OF ARTICLES AFTER ADMISSION OF MEMBERS

After members, if any, have been admitted to the corporation, amendment of the Articles of Incorporation may be adopted by the approval of the Board of Directors and by the approval of the members of this corporation.

SECTION 3. CERTAIN AMENDMENTS

Notwithstanding the above sections of this Article, this corporation shall not amend its Articles of Incorporation to alter any statement which appears in the original Articles of Incorporation of the names and addresses of the first Directors of this corporation, nor the name and address of its initial agent, except to correct an error in such statement or to delete such statement after the corporation has filed a "statement by a Domestic Non-Profit Corporation" pursuant to Section 6210 of the California Nonprofit Corporation Law.

ARTICLE 11. PROHIBITION AGAINST SHARING CORPORATE PROFITS AND ASSETS

SECTION 1. PROHIBITION AGAINST SHARING CORPORATE PROFITS AND ASSETS

No member, Director, officer, employee, or other person connected with this corporation, or any private individual, shall receive at any time any of the net earnings or pecuniary profit from the operations of the corporation, provided however, that this provision shall not prevent payment to any such person of reasonable compensation for services performed for the corporation in effecting any of its public or charitable purposes, provided that such compensation is otherwise permitted by these Bylaws and is fixed by resolution of the Board of Directors; and no such

person or persons shall be entitled to share in the distribution of, and shall not receive, any of the corporate assets on dissolution of the corporation. All members, if any, of the corporation shall be deemed to have expressly consented and agreed that on such dissolution or winding up of the affairs of the corporation, whether voluntarily or involuntarily, the assets of the corporation, after all debts have been satisfied, shall be distributed as required by the Articles of Incorporation of this corporation and not otherwise.

ARTICLE 12. MEMBERS

SECTION 1. DETERMINATION OF MEMBERS

If this corporation makes no provision for members, then pursuant to Section 5310(b) of the Nonprofit Public Benefit Corporation law of the State of California, any action which would otherwise, under law or provisions of the Articles of Incorporation or Bylaws of this corporation, require approval by a majority of all members or approval by the members, shall only require the approval of the Board of Directors.

WRITTEN CONSENT OF DIRECTORS ADOPTING BYLAWS

We, the undersigned, are all of the persons named as the initial directors in the Articles of Incorporation of Sierra Institute for Community and Environment, a California nonprofit corporation, and, pursuant to the authority granted to the directors by these Bylaws to take action by unanimous written consent without a meeting, consent to, and hereby do, adopt the foregoing Bylaws, consisting of pages, as the Bylaws of this corporation.

Date: _____

CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the Bylaws of the corporation named in the title thereto and that such Bylaws were duly adopted by the Board of Directors of said corporation.

Date: _____

INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE
P. O. BOX 2508
CINCINNATI, OH 45201

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Date: **AUG 23 2002**

FOREST COMMUNITY RESEARCH
PO BOX 11
TAYLORSVILLE, CA 95983

Employer Identification Number:
91-1818166
DLN:
17053096779052
Contact Person:
MICHAEL A LUDWIG ID# 31470
Contact Telephone Number:
(877) 829-5500
Our Letter Dated:
January 1998
Addendum Applies:
No

Dear Applicant:

This modifies our letter of the above date in which we stated that you would be treated as an organization that is not a private foundation until the expiration of your advance ruling period.

Your exempt status under section 501(a) of the Internal Revenue Code as an organization described in section 501(c)(3) is still in effect. Based on the information you submitted, we have determined that you are not a private foundation within the meaning of section 509(a) of the Code because you are an organization of the type described in section 509(a)(1) and 170(b)(1)(A)(vi).

Grantors and contributors may rely on this determination unless the Internal Revenue Service publishes notice to the contrary. However, if you lose your section 509(a)(1) status, a grantor or contributor may not rely on this determination if he or she was in part responsible for, or was aware of, the act or failure to act, or the substantial or material change on the part of the organization that resulted in your loss of such status, or if he or she acquired knowledge that the Internal Revenue Service had given notice that you would no longer be classified as a section 509(a)(1) organization.

You are required to make your annual information return, Form 990 or Form 990-EZ, available for public inspection for three years after the later of the due date of the return or the date the return is filed. You are also required to make available for public inspection your exemption application, any supporting documents, and your exemption letter. Copies of these documents are also required to be provided to any individual upon written or in person request without charge other than reasonable fees for copying and postage. You may fulfill this requirement by placing these documents on the Internet. Penalties may be imposed for failure to comply with these requirements. Additional information is available in Publication 557, Tax-Exempt Status for Your Organization, or you may call our toll free number shown above.

If we have indicated in the heading of this letter that an addendum applies, the addendum enclosed is an integral part of this letter.

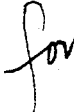
Letter 1050 (DO/CG)

FOREST COMMUNITY RESEARCH

Because this letter could help resolve any questions about your private foundation status, please keep it in your permanent records.

If you have any questions, please contact the person whose name and telephone number are shown above.

Sincerely yours,

 Lois G. Lerner
Director, Exempt Organizations

Narrative Proposal Attachments

- Documentation of Leveraged Resources --Sierra Nevada Conservancy
- Letters of Commitment/Support



AUBURN OFFICE
11521 Blocker Drive, Ste. 205
Auburn, CA 95603
p (530)823-4670 f (530)823-4665

March 13, 2014

Mr. Jonathan Kusel
Sierra Institute for Community and Environment
Application Reference Number: 780
P.O. Box 11
Taylorsville, CA 95983

Dear Mr. Kusel:

Congratulations! I am pleased to inform you that your application titled: Plumas Community Energy Wood Processing Facility for a Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) Proposition 84 grant was authorized by the SNC Board on March 13, 2014, for the amount of \$350,000.

Your organization will be receiving a grant agreement for review and signature within the next sixty days. Once all parties have signed the agreement, it will be considered fully executed. We will send you an email letting you know the execution date, followed by a signed original for your files. We will include with that original a letter with information about how to invoice for expense reimbursement. **Please note: we will only be able to reimburse expenses incurred after the agreement is fully executed.**

We encourage you to publicize this outstanding achievement through your local media. It is a perfect opportunity to showcase your organization's project. The SNC would appreciate notification when the media article or event occurs, so that we may archive it for future reference.

Once again, thank you for your interest in the SNC Proposition 84 Grant Program. We are impressed by the exceptional quality of the applications received in our grant program and look forward to the opportunity to continue support of the extraordinary efforts of those working for the enhancement of the Sierra Nevada Region.

If you have any questions prior to receiving your agreement for signature, please contact our Senior Grants Analyst, Matthew Daley, at (530) 823-4698 or

matthew.daley@sierranevada.ca.gov

Sincerely,

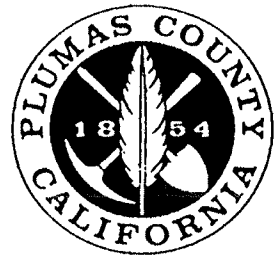
Sent over email without signature.

Jim Branham, Executive Officer
(530)823-4667 (o) (530)721-0018 (c)
www.sierranevada.ca.gov

Find or share a special place in the Sierra Nevada!
www.Sierranevadageotourism.org

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

MICHAEL SANCHEZ, DISTRICT 1
KEVIN GOSS, DISTRICT 2
SHARON THRALL, DISTRICT 3
LORI SIMPSON, DISTRICT 4
JEFF ENGEL, DISTRICT 5



November 13, 2017

Jonathan Kusel
Executive Director
Sierra Institute for Community and Environment
4438 Main Street | PO Box 11
Taylorsville, CA 95983

Re: Letter of Support for Sierra Institute's Application to U.S. EPA's Cleanup Grant Program

As Plumas County District 4 Supervisor and Chair of the Board, I am pleased to support the Sierra Institute for Community and Environment's application to the U.S. EPA's Cleanup Grant program. This grant will provide much needed funds to clean up contaminated soil on the 28-acre former Louisiana Pacific mill site in Crescent Mills.

I am familiar with Sierra Institute's efforts to redevelop this site into a wood products business park. The proposed redevelopment will contribute much needed economic revitalization in our impoverished county as rural Plumas County was hit particularly hard by the recent economic recession and associated downturn in the housing market. Developing a wood products campus in Crescent Mills will bring both temporary construction jobs and new long-term employment opportunities to the region. Additionally, strong demand for forest biomass will help strengthen the local forestry industry, a major economic driver in Plumas County, and also allow for forest managers to perform increased fuels reduction activities in surrounding forestland, therefore reducing the risk of catastrophic wildfire that threatens our communities. Thus, I am confident that this business park will benefit Plumas County residents in many ways.

However, I recognize that this old mill site is contaminated from prior sawmill operations, and therefore needs to be cleaned up so redevelopment can occur safely and ensure that public health and the environment are protected.

The Crescent Mills site would have remained vacant and contaminated if not for Sierra Institute's efforts to assess and clean up the property over the last several years. During this time, Sierra Institute staff have met with and presented various components of the brownfield assessment efforts and the redevelopment plan to the Board. The Plumas County Community Development Commission, of which I also sit on the Board for, is currently working with the Sierra Institute to implement a U.S. EPA Brownfields Assessment Grant for assessment and cleanup planning at the site. I have also worked closely with the Sierra Institute for the past year on development of a California Energy Commission-funded project for a small-scale biomass heating system at the Plumas County Health and Human Services Center in Quincy, California.

Board and other Plumas County stakeholders have had opportunity to comment on and influence this project as it progressed from planning to implementation. The Board has enjoyed this opportunity to collaborate on the project and believes that the proposed redevelopment aligns very well with the new County General Plan.

This cleanup project will provide a clean site safe for construction workers and for future businesses, and allow for a critical redevelopment project to proceed that will benefit the county in many ways. I strongly urge your support for this important project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lori Simpson". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Lori" and last name "Simpson" clearly distinguishable.

Lori Simpson, Chair
Plumas County Board of Supervisors

Plumas County Fire Safe Council



2

November 10, 2017

Jonathan Kusel
Executive Director
Sierra Institute for Community and Environment
4438 Main Street | PO Box 11
Taylorsville, CA 95983

Dear Jonathan,

The Plumas County Fire Safe Council is pleased to support the Sierra Institute's proposal to the U.S. EPA Brownfield Cleanup Grant as it will allow for a long-awaited redevelopment of the old Louisiana Pacific mill site in Crescent Mills into a wood products business campus. As Chair of the Fire Safe Council Board I am aware of the urgent need to develop markets locally in the Upper Feather River Watershed for low value forest biomass. I understand that the proposed wood products campus on this Crescent Mills site will utilize at least 30,000 bone dry tons of biomass per year—this local market for biomass will increase the number of forested acres thinned on an annual basis, therefore reducing the risk of catastrophic wildfire threatening communities of Plumas County.

Over the years, a number of Fire Safe Council projects that were originally planned with a biomass component have had to be reworked to include a mastication process due to lack of outlets for biomass. While these projects have still effectively changed the fuel structure in the forest and increased defensible space, it is preferable to remove the material from the site. Development of an outlet for woody biomass at the Crescent Mills site will ensure that Fire Safe projects meet desired conditions.

We look forward to working with the Sierra Institute in exploring opportunities to provide the Crescent Mills campus with biomass supply from Fire Safe projects. Developing local demand for biomass would represent a significant opportunity for the Fire Safe Council and would reduce the risk our community faces from wildfire events. Furthermore, this effort is in line with objectives of the Plumas County Tree Mortality Task Force as it creates an opportunity for disposal and utilization of dead and dying material.

However, this important work cannot happen until contamination on the site is effectively cleaned up. Thus, I strongly urge you to support the Sierra Institute's application for a Brownfields Cleanup Grant so the redevelopment of the Crescent Mills site can proceed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Mike Callaghan'.

Mike Callaghan
Plumas Fire Safe Council, Chair

P. O. Box 1225, Quincy, CA 95971
(530) 283-0829
www.plumasfiresafe.org

Plumas Community Radio
PO Box 350
Quincy, CA 95971

www.kqny919.org



Tommy Miles, Station Manager

Voice: (530) 283-9396

Email: kqnymgr@hotmail.com

November 14, 2017

Jonathan Kusel
Executive Director
Sierra Institute for Community and Environment
4438 Main Street | PO Box 11
Taylorsville, CA 95983

Dear Jonathan,

I am pleased to offer my support to the Sierra Institute's application to the U.S. EPA's Cleanup Grant program. I am aware that this EPA grant will support Sierra Institute's efforts to clean up the Crescent Mills site, therefore allowing for important business development to proceed.

As a resident of Plumas County for 46 years, I am a big proponent of increased business opportunities in Plumas County focused on utilizing forest biomass. I taught History and Political Science for 36 years at Feather River College. While teaching I served in statewide academic leadership roles including chair of the Committee on Legislation and Governmental Relations for the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges. I have hosted the Common Good Radio Program on the local community radio station KQNY 91.9 FM for 7 years. The Common Good is designed to raise a variety of community issues of local interest in our area, with a mission to provide a forum for Plumas, Sierra, and Lassen Counties about current matters of public interest. Our approach is to bring to light these local affairs in an objective, non-partisan way and to permit persons of differing views to speak in their own voice.

I have hosted the representatives of the Sierra Institute on my show twice in the last few years to discuss their biomass and economic development work in the community. I look forward to hosting them again soon so the community can learn more about their work to assess and clean up this old mill site in Crescent Mills. The Sierra Institute is doing important work for our rural area and I look forward to continue helping them share their story with the community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Joseph J. Muñoz". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Joseph" and last name "Muñoz" clearly legible.

Joseph J. Muñoz
Professor Emeritus, Feather River College
Host of the Common Good Radio Program



CENTER FOR CREATIVE
LAND RECYCLING

RECLAIM. CONNECT. TRANSFORM.

November 16, 2017

Jonathan Kusel, PhD.
Sierra Institute for Community and Environment
4438 Main Street | PO Box 11
Taylorsville, CA 95983

Subject: Letter of Commitment and Support
Technical Assistance to Brownfields (TAB) Program at
the Center for Creative Land Recycling (CCLR)
Sierra Institute for Community and Environment Grant Application

Dear Dr. Kusel:

It is my pleasure to provide this letter documenting our partnership with the Sierra Institute for Community and Environment, and our commitment to provide assistance to your brownfields efforts to clean up the former Louisiana Pacific sawmill in Crescent Mills. CCLR will continue to provide technical and programmatic assistance for this project.

For the past two years, CCLR provided assistance to the Sierra Institute in providing direction for fund sources and liability protection. If this cleanup grant proposal is funded, under TAB funding, CCLR will continue to provide technical and financial assistance as necessary.

To date, we have expended approximately \$1,000 of leveraged effort toward your brownfields efforts and if this cleanup grant is awarded, TAB will expend at least another \$1,000 during the grant period.

We look forward to continuing to work with you and especially look forward to assisting with implementing your cleanup grant.

Sincerely,

Sarah Sieloff
Executive Director

Application for Federal Assistance SF-424

* 1. Type of Submission:

- ☐ Preapplication
☒ Application
☐ Changed/Corrected Application

* 2. Type of Application:

- ☒ New
☐ Continuation
☐ Revision

* If Revision, select appropriate letter(s):

* Other (Specify):

* 3. Date Received:

11/16/2017

4. Applicant Identifier:

5a. Federal Entity Identifier:

5b. Federal Award Identifier:

State Use Only:

6. Date Received by State:

7. State Application Identifier:

8. APPLICANT INFORMATION:

* a. Legal Name: Sierra Institute for Community and Environment

* b. Employer/Taxpayer Identification Number (EIN/TIN):

91-1818166

* c. Organizational DUNS:

0127422890000

d. Address:

* Street1:

4438 Main Street

Street2:

* City:

Taylorsville

County/Parish:

Plumas

* State:

CA: California

Province:

* Country:

USA: UNITED STATES

* Zip / Postal Code:

95983-0011

e. Organizational Unit:

Department Name:

Division Name:

f. Name and contact information of person to be contacted on matters involving this application:

Prefix:

* First Name:

Jonathan

Middle Name:

* Last Name:

Kusel

Suffix:

Ph.D

Title: Executive Director

Organizational Affiliation:

* Telephone Number:

530-284-1022

Fax Number:

530-284-1023

* Email: jkusel@sierrainstitute.us

Application for Federal Assistance SF-424

* 9. Type of Applicant 1: Select Applicant Type:

M: Nonprofit with 501C3 IRS Status (Other than Institution of Higher Education)

Type of Applicant 2: Select Applicant Type:

Type of Applicant 3: Select Applicant Type:

* Other (specify):

* 10. Name of Federal Agency:

Environmental Protection Agency

11. Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number:

66.818

CFDA Title:

Brownfields Assessment and Cleanup Cooperative Agreements

* 12. Funding Opportunity Number:

EPA-OLEM-OBLR-17-09

* Title:

FY18 GUIDELINES FOR BROWNFIELDS CLEANUP GRANTS

13. Competition Identification Number:

Title:

14. Areas Affected by Project (Cities, Counties, States, etc.):

Add Attachment

Delete Attachment

View Attachment

* 15. Descriptive Title of Applicant's Project:

Crescent Mills Former LP Mill Site Cleanup: West Central Area

Attach supporting documents as specified in agency instructions.

Add Attachments

Delete Attachments

View Attachments

Application for Federal Assistance SF-424**16. Congressional Districts Of:**

* a. Applicant

001

* b. Program/Project

001

Attach an additional list of Program/Project Congressional Districts if needed.

Add Attachment

Delete Attachment

View Attachment

17. Proposed Project:

* a. Start Date:

04/01/2018

* b. End Date:

12/31/2019

18. Estimated Funding (\$):

* a. Federal	200,000.00
* b. Applicant	0.00
* c. State	40,000.00
* d. Local	0.00
* e. Other	0.00
* f. Program Income	0.00
* g. TOTAL	240,000.00

*** 19. Is Application Subject to Review By State Under Executive Order 12372 Process?**☐ a. This application was made available to the State under the Executive Order 12372 Process for review on .☐ b. Program is subject to E.O. 12372 but has not been selected by the State for review.☒ c. Program is not covered by E.O. 12372.*** 20. Is the Applicant Delinquent On Any Federal Debt? (If "Yes," provide explanation in attachment.)**☐ Yes☒ No

If "Yes", provide explanation and attach

Add Attachment

Delete Attachment

View Attachment

21. *By signing this application, I certify (1) to the statements contained in the list of certifications and (2) that the statements herein are true, complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I also provide the required assurances** and agree to comply with any resulting terms if I accept an award. I am aware that any false, fictitious, or fraudulent statements or claims may subject me to criminal, civil, or administrative penalties. (U.S. Code, Title 218, Section 1001)**

☒ ** I AGREE

** The list of certifications and assurances, or an internet site where you may obtain this list, is contained in the announcement or agency specific instructions.

Authorized Representative:

Prefix:

* First Name:

Jonathan

Middle Name:

* Last Name:

Kusel

Suffix:

Ph.D

* Title:

Executive Director

* Telephone Number:

530-284-1022

Fax Number:

530-284-1023

* Email:

jkusel@sierrainstitute.us

* Signature of Authorized Representative:

Jonathan P Kusel

* Date Signed:

11/16/2017